



Royal tumble: The Prince of Wales is tended by a fellow polo player as he lies motionless on the ground after breaking his right arm in a heavy fall at Cirencester Park yesterday

Labour pledge to unravel Tory health reforms

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR yesterday pledged itself to dismantle most of the government's health reforms, but said it would keep some key elements.

Hospitals that opt out of local authority control and family doctors who choose to run their own budgets would have to unscramble their new arrangements if a Labour government came to power.

Nine hundred GPs and 83 hospitals have set in train plans to take advantage of those provisions of the health service bill, which is expected to receive the royal assent today. Four hundred GPs expect to be running independent budgets by next April, but with an election certain within the next two years, many may think again now

that Labour has spelt out its determination to repeal the legislation.

Labour's 10-point strategy was outlined by Robin Cook, its health spokesman, to journalists in Bournemouth, where the British Medical Association is holding its conference. The BMA has conducted a concerted campaign in opposition to the government's reforms, the most sweeping changes to the health service since its introduction in 1948.

Mr Cook said Labour would bring back into the local health service any hospital that opts out of local health authority control, make GP fundholders give up their budgets, scrap the internal market in the provision of services, and end compulsory competitive tendering for such services as catering and laundry.

But some important elements of the reforms would remain. Money would still follow the patients, with hospitals being rewarded for extra work, but cash limits would be made more flexible to protect losers. Labour would also retain medical audit, the new consultants' contracts and more cost-effective drug prescribing, although drug budgets would be abandoned.

Health managers would also be able to provide services for each other, but not on a commercial basis. Under the government's reforms, health authorities will draw up contracts to buy services from directly-managed or self-governing hospitals. Mr Cook insisted that an internal market would not operate under Labour, and health authorities would no longer buy services, but he conceded there could be arrangements for specifying and meeting service needs.

"We are wholly against the relationship between management contracts based on a commercial contract with some managers trying to secure a competitive leverage over others, but it makes sense for some managers to measure health needs and specify how these are met and for others to meet these specifications," he said.

Health authorities should have an obligation to provide comprehensive local services, Mr Cook said. "What I will not tolerate is managers rushing around the country like Sainsbury's trying to get the

cheapest possible buy." Labour would also abolish tax relief on private medical cover for the elderly, restore free eye and dental checks and introduce specific earmarked grants for local community care programmes.

Mr Cook made clear that he would make changes in the membership of the health authorities to be set up under the health service bill. "In the short term, we will replace the businessmen and party officers favoured by Kenneth Clarke (the health secretary) with people committed to the national health service as a public service and representative of their local communities."

Labour would fully fund all pay awards, including those for groups not covered by pay review bodies, and the party would "seek to restore the amount by which the NHS has been underfunded in the lifetime of the government". However, he admitted that this objective depended on the economic climate.

Mr Cook said substantial savings would be achieved through cutting down on administrative and bureaucratic support. Abolishing tax relief on private health subscriptions would save £45 million, but it would cost twice that to restore free eye and dental charges. He said he would announce more detailed plans for financing health care in August.

The idea of "ring fencing" funds for community care has widespread support, but on Wednesday the government overturned a Lords amendment to its bill that would have ensured money was used for the purpose.

Although the government has agreed to earmark some money for the mentally ill and, as a result of a concession on Wednesday, for drug addicts and alcoholics, it has consistently argued that other money for the social care of the mentally handicapped and the elderly should go through the normal block grant to local councils.

Kenneth Clarke says such a strategy would give councils more flexibility to decide which services to provide and there would be greater accountability if resources were not earmarked.

Leading article, page 11

Prince breaks arm in polo fall

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE Prince of Wales broke his arm yesterday when he fell from his pony during a polo match at Cirencester Park, Gloucestershire.

Last night the prince was receiving treatment at Cirencester memorial hospital for what his official spokesman described as a bad fracture of the humerus, just above the right elbow. Roland Sweatman, the Queen's orthopaedic surgeon, was summoned to attend the prince and was expected to arrive late last night. In the meantime he was being treated by Bruce Morris, an orthopaedic surgeon from Cheltenham general hospital, and was under sedation because of considerable pain.

The accident happened during the second chukka of the semi-final of the Warwickshire Cup at Earl Bathurst's estate, seven miles from the prince's home at Highgrove. He was playing his usual back position for his regular team, Windsor Park, against opponents Hildon, when he lost his balance while making a shot and fell heavily.

Witnesses said that the prince appeared to hit the ground hard and then bounced, landing on his back. He lay still for several minutes before raising his head to look at his body and then collapse again, with pain written all over his face. Spectators, including his polo manager, Major Ronald Ferguson, went to his aid.

No other player or animal was involved, the prince's spokesman said, and so far as was known he had suffered no other injuries.

The prince was lifted into a Red Cross ambulance and driven slowly to a police escort two miles to the hospital. Police Inspector Michael Pennington, who accompanied the ambulance, said that on arrival the prince joked with nurses in spite of his pain.

"I think some architect put the horse up to it," he said, pointing to a drawing of a horse's head.

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Leading article, page 11

Britain accepts EC Rover subsidy edict

By ROBIN OAKLEY AND RICHARD FORD

BRITAIN yesterday accepted the European Commission's verdict that British Aerospace should be forced to repay the hidden subsidies it was conceded on the privatisation of the Rover car and Land Rover businesses. But the government quibbled over the sums involved, arguing that the £33.4 million calculated as the interest saving to the company was only £22 million when the benefit was assessed net of tax.

In a flurry of letters last night, Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, repeated his challenge to Margaret Thatcher to reveal how much she knew at the time of the sweeteners to BAE. Gordon Brown, the Labour industry spokesman, and Alex Carlile, the Liberal Democrat legal affairs spokesman, both wrote to Nicholas Ridley, the trade and industry secretary, demanding that he should reveal the legal advice given at the time to Mrs Thatcher and to Lord Young of Grafton, the trade secretary when the deal went through, over the hidden subsidies. In the Commons, Mr

Ridley accepted in principle the commission's ruling requiring BAE to repay to the government the £9.5 million contribution towards its costs in buying out minority shareholders and the grant of £1.5 million on its acquisition costs for Rover Group.

But he signalled that the government is prepared to support the company in arguments over the true benefit it derived from being allowed to defer payment of the £150

million paid for Rover, arguments which could cut the repayment by £11.4 million.

Mr Ridley said the government would accept the commission's decision on repayment in order to demonstrate its support for European Community policy on cutting back state aid. But it did not feel there should be any "unintended element of penalty" and would want to consider the tax element and any representations by BAE. The company said only that it would be studying Mr Ridley's statement.

There were angry exchanges when Mrs Thatcher three times avoided a direct reply to a question from Mr Kinnock about whether she was aware at the time of the extent of the sweeteners offered to BAE.

She had said in a letter to Mr Kinnock on December 12 last year: "I was of course aware of the basic terms and conditions of the arrangements reached with BAE." At question time yesterday, she refused to answer directly and repeated at length the previous statements she had made on the question. Mr Kinnock has now written to her demanding clarification of whether her words amounted to an admission that she knew the extent of the sweeteners. As well as Mr Kinnock's missive to Mrs Thatcher, Mr Brown last night wrote to Mr Ridley enclosing a copy of the



Ridley: privatisation had "considerable benefits"

Thousands quit Moscow party

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

MORE than 20,000 Communist party members in Moscow have applied to leave the party just days before next week's 28th party congress, a founding member of the reformist Democratic Platform said in Moscow yesterday.

As members of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist party converged on Moscow to decide if the congress should even take place, reformists were deeply pessimistic about the course of the meeting and the future of the party. Vyacheslav Shostakovskiy of Democratic Platform claimed that the election of a conservative, Ivan Polozkov, to head the new Russian party had produced the defections.

According to recent figures, the party has lost more than 130,000 of its 19 million members in the first five months of this year, more than in the whole of 1989.

A usually reliable Kremlin source also said yesterday that at a politburo meeting on Monday President Gorbachev had also suggested the postponement of next week's Soviet party congress.

Mr Gorbachev - whose reforms have precipitated the

divisions in the party - was said to be distressed over the aggressively conservative mood of last week's Russian Communist party congress.

But Mr Gorbachev could take some small consolation from events in Lithuania yesterday. The prime minister, Kazimiera Prunskiene, urged the Lithuanian parliament to freeze the rebel Baltic republic's declaration of independence and open the way for talks with Moscow. "One cannot put off negotiations," she told parliament in Vilnius.

In entering into talks, we would not be risking more than we are risking now. Negotiations would not be a retreat. They would be a step towards independence."

President Landsbergis and Mrs Prunskiene are expected to fly to Estonia today, officially to open a Baltic song festival, but unofficially to have talks on the moratorium issue with leaders of the other Baltic republics. Their absence will mean that a decision on the issue in the Lithuanian parliament will be delayed. Parliament adjourned until today after a relatively calm debate.

Gorbachev distress, page 7

Texan heavyweight takes on the Tokyo mob

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

CORPORATE Japan yesterday went on the offensive in the battle against the "sokaiya" - the extortionists who every year make their lives a misery at their annual shareholder meetings.

If the companies do not pay protection money the sokaiya turn up in force to disrupt the meetings by asking hundreds of awkward, mundane or irrelevant questions or by shouting down shareholders and company directors who want to speak.

The extortionists are sometimes hired by the companies themselves to intimidate dissident shareholders.

Since 1982 it has been illegal for firms to pay off the sokaiya, so instead they have tried to stretch their resources by holding their meetings on the same day. Yesterday more than 1,500 Japanese

companies held their annual meetings and thousands of policemen were on duty to ensure that the sokaiya did not break the law. Last year there were 690 annual meetings held on the same day June 29, and the "safety in numbers" scheme was so successful that this year almost 1,000 more companies joined in.

And T. Boone Pickens, the Texan corporate raider, stormed out of Koito Manufacturing's annual shareholders' meeting after a heated verbal battle with the sokaiya. He called an impromptu press conference on the pavement to condemn Japanese business practices and denounce the management. "That was a complete farce. It's a closed system and they're against foreigners. If this was the United States, they would all be in jail," the billionaire oilman shouted in a furious fist-shaking outburst.

Pickens, as Koito's largest shareholder, with 26 per cent of the Japanese auto-

parts company, has been fighting an increasingly acrimonious and unsuccessful battle for board representation and for the right to exercise executive power over the company's development.

The meeting at Shinagawa Prince Hotel, in the centre of Tokyo, was a potent symbol of what Mr Pickens likes to describe as his struggle against corporate Japan. In the Pickens corner were Boone and his glamorous wife, Bea, who were supported by 33 gum-chewing Americans. The women, dressed in bright silks, and flashing red-lacquered fingernails, looked as if they might have arrived from the set of Dallas.

However, Mr Pickens, who last week sent more than 4,000 Koito shareholders a video featuring himself on horseback and explaining his motives, was not to be silenced. As he left, the Texan drawl rose above the hecklers: "I'll be back again next year. Same time, same place."



Pickens: threatening to be back next year

Saturday Review

Melly joins the Stones



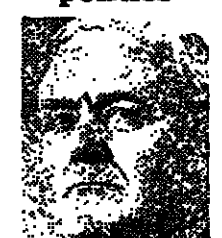
The Rolling Stones tour reaches Britain next week. George Melly has been on the road with the veterans of rock

A count returns to his castle



Count Joachim von Arnim fled his ancestral home 45 years ago when Russian troops captured eastern Germany. As the two Germanies prepare for unification, the count has returned to his castle. Anne McElvoy describes an emotional homecoming

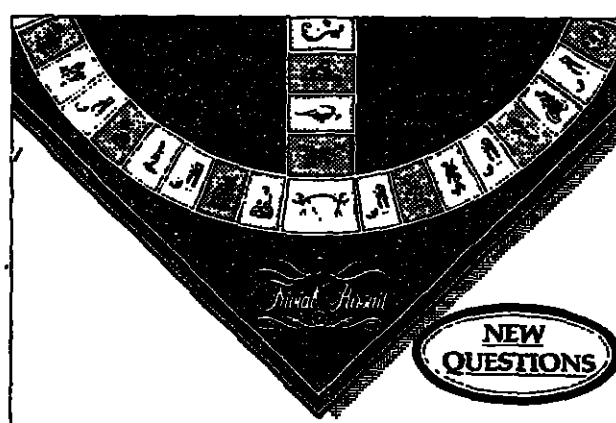
Born into politics



Tony Benn had a rare kind of childhood. He tells Ray Connolly how he was taken to 10 Downing Street to meet Ramsay MacDonald. He met Gandhi when he was five, and he remembers the Spanish Civil War.

Plus . . .

Travel - searching for the soul of India: the arts, books, fashion, Jonathan Meades eating out, Jane MacQuitty on the English 1989 vintage, Frances Bissell. The Times cook, and Roy Strong describing the delights of an English abbey. Switch to The Times Saturday Review tomorrow. Demand was heavy last week; order your copy now



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Nuclear industry 'should be judged on wider front'

By RONALD FAUX

THE nuclear industry was alive and thriving in the northwest yesterday after the latest blast of criticism directed against it, this time by the Commons energy committee. The committee's allegation that parliament and the public had been deceived for decades over the cost of nuclear energy left Brian Ayre, chief executive of AEA Technology, "very depressed".

He said the argument about the cost of nuclear energy had been too narrow and should not ignore the value of the technology that had been transferred to other areas of industry. "Commercial exploitation has happened on a much broader front and we should not be looking at this from the single con-

text of the nuclear power problem, but from the investment the UK has benefited from."

Of the nine AEA Technology businesses transferring nuclear expertise to other areas of industry, four were now non-nuclear and ranged from catalytic converters in Jaguar cars to friction systems in the Hubble telescope. The £80 million a year turn-over was expected to double over the next four to five years.

"We have to look at the wider contribution the nuclear industry makes to the economy. If Britain has any aspirations to remain an advanced industrial country then it must invest in the leading edge of technology," he said. Dr Ayre believed the failure with the privatisation of nuclear power was

a direct result of the financial structure that had been devised. "It was the City versus the national view of investment calling for rates of return from a technology simply not geared to provide them."

British Nuclear Fuels Ltd, at Warrington, added to the evidence that the nuclear industry was prospering against a heavy weight of negative publicity. Last year profits increased by 25 per cent to £124 million. The company's reprocessing plant at Sellafield in Cumbria, due to open in 1992, has an order book valued at £5 billion for the first decade of operation.

"We are rapidly building up the sale of our nuclear expertise around the world and there is no sign that the world does not need what we have to offer," a company

spokesman said yesterday. Even so, Christopher Harding, BNFL chairman, complained recently about the daunting public relations battle it is obliged to fight. He acknowledged that public opinion was divided over nuclear power. "We in the nuclear industry have to earn support and to deserve support. We have to recognise that many people have genuine concerns on safety, health and environmental issues and I believe we have a good case on all those scores."

As for the commercial value of nuclear industry, the company spokesman added, the balance sheet spoke for itself.

Warrington, meanwhile, has become a magnet for research scientists, technicians and specialist

engineers working in the industry. They now far outnumber those employed in the traditional workshops and factories that founded Warrington's reputation during the industrial revolution as "the centre of the known universe".

The flat caps and fumes of the steelworks have given way to an influx of boffins who work in the quiet atmosphere of the science parks and light industrial estates that ring the town. They are the newcomers, many of them a spin-off from the nuclear industry that moved here after the war because Warrington had an established pool of scientific expertise in the chemical industry.

Although a flat and unprepossessing town with few outstanding buildings, Warring-

ton's new importance lies in its position close to a network of motorway and rail routes with sea and airports close at hand.

The skills developed here in the nuclear industry have been applied to a wider market. AEA Technology was launched as the commercial arm of the UK Atomic Energy Authority and ranks as a premier European research and development organisation, employing some 2,000 people.

British Nuclear Fuels has a workforce of 2,700 and puts £28 million a year into the Warrington economy with a spin-off in business to suppliers throughout the northwest valued at more than £330 million. Serving the nuclear industry has made Warrington once more a prosperous place.

MoT test may soon include emissions

By KEVIN EASON
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 16 million cars will have to meet strict exhaust emission standards next year as part of the MoT test under proposals put forward yesterday by Cecil Parkinson, the transport secretary.

Motorists also face roadside checks if their cars are pumping excessive toxic exhaust gases into the atmosphere because engines are not properly tuned. The measure underlines Mr Parkinson's drive to "civilise" the car and help meet the government's ambition of stabilising emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂), one of the main gases contributing to global warming, by the year 2005.

Future tests would include a check on carbon monoxide emissions from the exhaust which would give test engineers information on how well the car was tuned. A badly tuned car uses more fuel, pumping out more CO₂ and toxic gases as a result.

Transport department scientists calculate that CO₂ emissions from vehicles could be reduced immediately by 4 per cent if engines were kept correctly tuned. Emissions of hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide would also be much reduced. Mr Parkinson said: "There is a good case for adding a simple emissions check to the MoT test for all petrol-driven cars and light vans starting next year."

"This proposal should improve fuel consumption and hence reduce carbon dioxide emissions by about 4 per cent averaged over the 16.5 million cars and light vans in the MoT scheme, with substantially larger benefits to carbon monoxide and hydrocarbon emissions."

Motorists face an increase in car maintenance cost to comply with the measures, but will save on fuel. Most vehicles should be able to comply with the emission tests, which will not be beyond the design capability of the cars and light vans under test, Mr Parkinson said.

The proposals will go through a period of consultation with manufacturers, motoring organisations and consumer groups. European legislation to take effect over the next two years will introduce catalytic converters, which soak up 90 per cent of noxious engine gases, to all new cars. There are also tighter emissions standards for diesel engines.

NUR to fight rail sell-off

BRITAIN'S railway workers were yesterday placed on "yellow alert" to oppose government plans to sell British Rail after Jimmy Knapp, the National Union of Railmen leader, said half of the 10,000-mile network could disappear.

Mr Knapp, addressing his union's conference, said his 110,000 members would have no alternative but to strike if the corporation was privatised and up to 20,000 jobs lost.

He said the prime minister had made it abundantly clear at the weekend that the privatisation of rail and London Underground were still very much a part of government plans.

Road deaths

The number of children killed on the roads fell in the first three months of this year, according to the transport department. The figure for children up to 14 was 60, compared with 84 in the first three months of 1989, a 29 per cent fall. Overall the number of people killed rose 2 per cent.

Fumes alert

Nearly 60 people, including three firemen, were taken to hospital yesterday when toxic fumes wafted through a supermarket in Darnall, Sheffield, after a cleaning chemical had been poured into drains. Homes and shops near by were evacuated. One woman was detained in hospital.

Journalist dies

Robert Carvel, the political editor of the *Evening Standard* for 25 years, died yesterday from a heart attack aged 71. He had been admitted to hospital after an initial heart attack last week.

Obituary, page 12

Rate aid for businesses 'will push up poll tax'

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

SUBSTANTIAL increases in the community charge are inevitable next year if ministers give way to mounting pressure to curb business rate rises in order to protect industry, the chairman of the Association of District Councils said last night.

Roy Thomason, a senior Conservative, said that unless the new uniform business rate, paid by all commercial undertakings from multinationals to corner shops, was increased in line with inflation the burden would fall on community charge payers.

Under present legislation ministers are free to set the annual increase in the business rate at any figure up to the rate of inflation.

Fears that they might be tempted to opt for a small increase to protect industry at a time of rising inflation and high interest rates were fuelled at a private meeting last week in Oxfordshire between leading Conservative councillors and senior members of the party, including ministers.

The cabinet is known to attach a high priority to safeguarding small businesses, which have been badly hit by the switch to the business rate.

Speaking at the annual conference of the association in Harrogate, Mr Thomason said: "If the Treasury encourages the environment department to look at a figure for inflation for the business

rate which is lower than that actually occurring there will be a substantial impact on community charge. Large increases would be inevitable in order to recoup the loss of the business rate income."

He also announced the results of a survey of poll tax collection carried out among 33 of the association's 331 member authorities, which cover non-metropolitan areas of England and Wales.

That showed that 75 per cent of charge payers had made some payment towards their poll tax bills by June 15 and authorities had received 70 per cent of the total amount due by the same date. The findings of the survey are unrepresentative of the whole country because they exclude the inner cities where less than half of poll tax payers are thought to have paid.

Mr Thomason said: "We are not at all displeased with the figure of 75 per cent because of the difficulties that authorities have faced with a completely new system."

There was little evidence that organised anti-poll tax action was hitting the rate of collection. "The amount of non-payment that is part of a deliberate political campaign is very small indeed," he said.

In Warrington, however, yesterday a crowd of poll tax demonstrators protested outside a court as magistrates began hearing the first of 5,500



Police hold back demonstrators in Warrington as magistrates began hearing the first of over 5,000 summonses for non-payment of poll tax

summonses for non-payment of the community charge. Most of the cases were adjourned until July 12.

● The government's timetable for announcing the full outcome of its review of the community charge appeared last night to be in danger of slipping (Philip Webster writes).

The prime minister told the Commons yesterday that proposals would be put to MPs before the House rises at the end of July. They will accompany the annual announcement by Chris Patten, the environment secretary, of the revenue support grant settlement.

However, for the first time yesterday sources close to the

review suggested that not all the government's conclusions may be unveiled in July and that some may have to wait until later in the year.

The timing appears to have been thrown into doubt by the decision of the charge-capped councils against whom Mr Patten won the appeal court hearing this week to take their case to the House of Lords and by the continuing deadlock in the committee over whether a bill should be introduced in the autumn.

The Lords hearing is expected to start on July 9 and ministers have little idea how long it will take.

Its outcome is crucial to Mr Patten's contention in the cabinet poll tax committee

that his existing charge-capping powers make it unnecessary for him to bring forward new legislation next session. Mrs Thatcher and the Treasury are pressing for a bill to put a blanket cap on local authority spending. Yesterday in the Commons she underlined the point by saying the review was "bearing in mind that charge-payers wish to be protected against excessive spending".

Ministers involved in the review said yesterday that it should not be assumed that everything would be announced in July. Environment department sources confirmed last night that although it remained the aim to make a definitive statement in July ministers were not constrained by that deadline.

Some ministers in the review are arguing that rather than introduce legislation next session the government should publish a white paper containing measures such as local referendums to act as a further discipline on local councils when setting next year's bills.

Mr Patten is seeking at least £3 billion in extra local authority grant next year and is understood to be working on revisions to the system of standard spending assessments, or Whitehall targets, for individual councils with the aim of raising levels of grant.

The appeal court ruling, if supported by the Lords, confirms that he can use SSAs as the basis of capping, which this year was triggered when councils exceeded those benchmarks by 12.5 per cent. However, his officials are known to be concerned that if he were to seek to cap councils for only slightly overstepping the mark, by, say, 5 per cent, the courts might then find he had acted unreasonably.

Steel workers' strike stems rise of tallest tower

By MATTHEW BOND

STEEL workers on Europe's biggest building site, the £3 billion Canary Wharf project in London's docklands, are on strike.

They walked out on Wednesday as the steel framework for the project's central skyscraper was due to rise above the 600ft height of the NatWest Tower, which remains Britain's tallest building until the strike is resolved. Yesterday, a few steel uprights indicated where the record-breaking fortieth floor of the Cesar Pelli-designed tower is destined to be.

Olympia & York, the project's Canadian developer, took direct control of the tower's construction in March, as it was concerned about slow progress since a ten-week strike by steel erectors last year put the development behind schedule. Work speed increased and the 800ft-high 50th floor was due to be completed in the middle of August.

More than 300 steel erectors have walked out, initially in protest over weekend safety work carried out on one building by Belgian workers. The dispute has spread to the four buildings where the steel work is not complete and now centres on completion bonuses. Work unrelated to the steel frames continues.

The erectors are thought to be demanding bonuses of £1,000 to £3,000 each, not for finishing on or before time, but just for finishing. None of

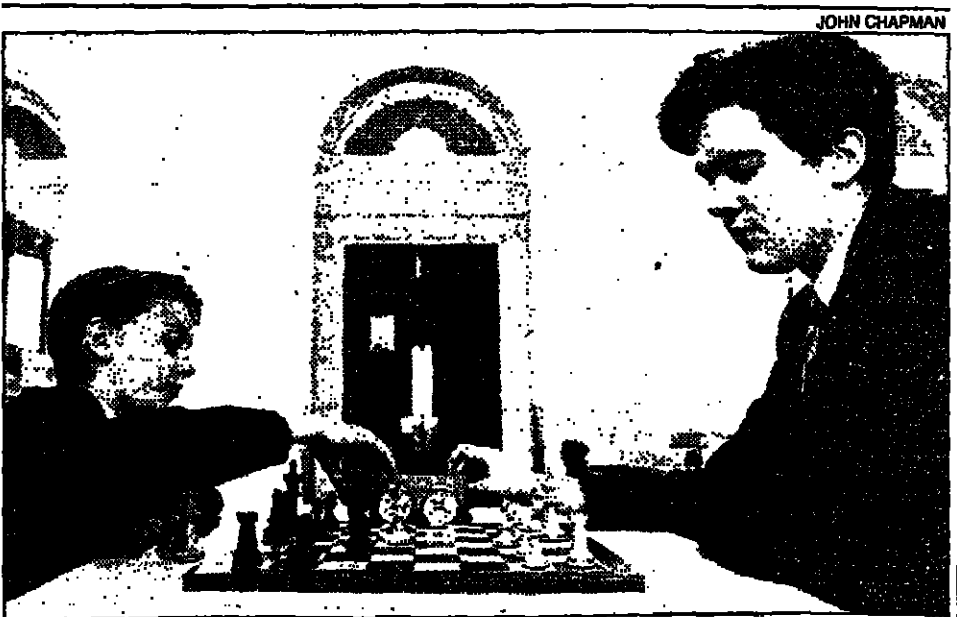
the contractors, who employ the erectors, would comment on the dispute. They indicated that O&Y, which could share financial responsibility for any bonus, was likely to take a tough line and considered the strike illegal.

A 200,000 sq ft building being built for Texaco, the oil group, will have a concrete frame, as a result of last year's dispute. O&Y is still considering whether the buildings of the second phase should be concrete or steel framed.

The strike is the second problem to beset the project this week. On Monday, Merrill Lynch, the American investment bank, said that it was pulling out of a preliminary agreement to take 240,000 sq ft of office space at Canary Wharf, but this was balanced by news from American Express which said it would establish a European headquarters there.

● British Gas manual workers have rejected the offer of a non-contributory pension scheme and a shorter working week in return for changes in their working practices (Tim Jones writes).

The offer, which would have cut 1.75 hours off the working week, to 37 hours, and given the workers a pay rise of 6 per cent, was turned down by 14,868 votes to 8,828. British Gas wanted staff to operate different shift patterns including work on Saturday afternoons and evening house calls.



James Redburn of Nottingham having a warm-up with James Cavendish of St Paul's

Chess win for favourites

ST PAUL'S School, London, the favourites, won a resounding victory over Nottingham High School by beating them 5½-½ in the semi-finals of the British schools chess championship at the Charing Cross Hotel, central London, yesterday (Raymond Keene writes).

The competition, which is sponsored by *The Times*, is a knock-out and attracts hundreds of schools from all over

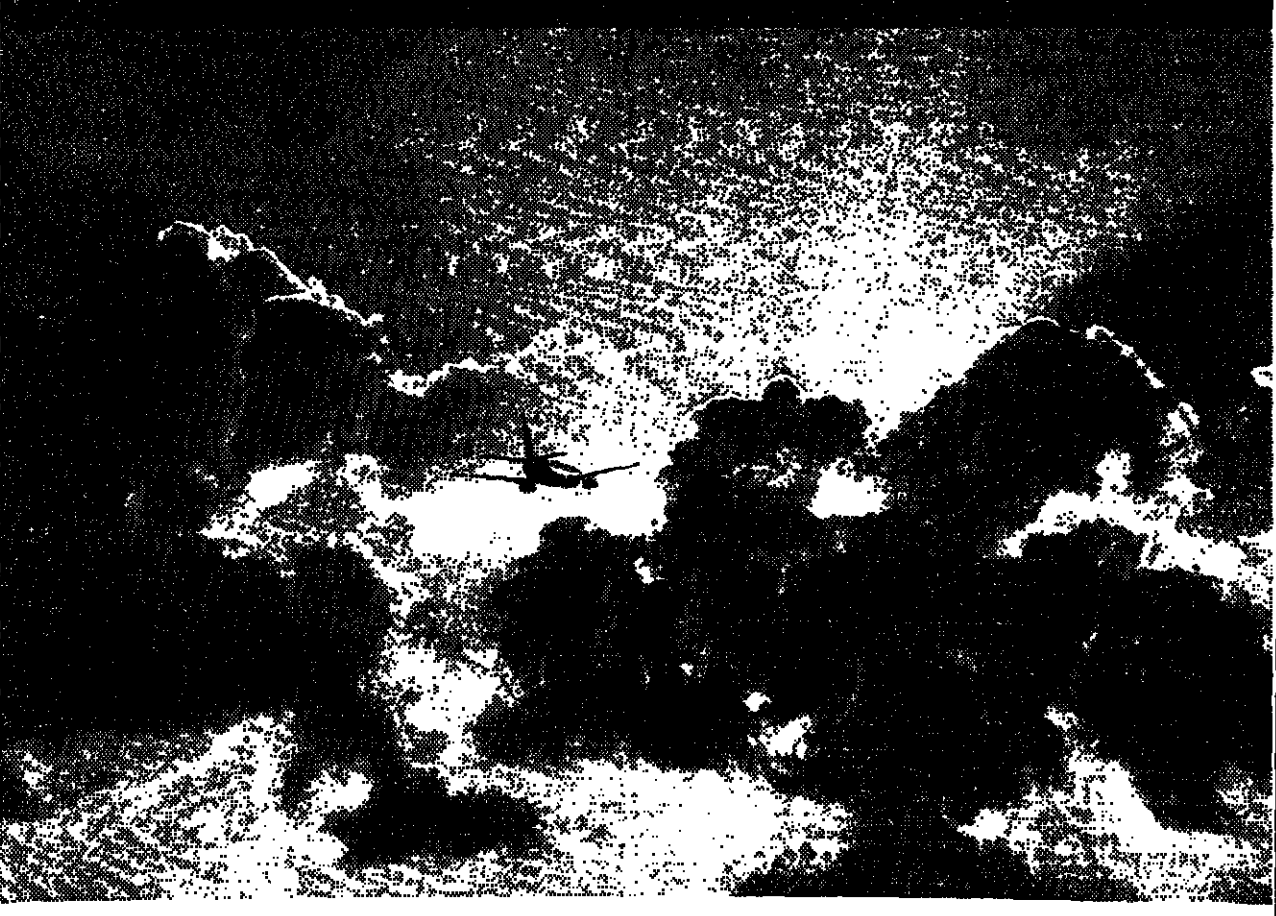
the United Kingdom. In the final this afternoon, St Paul's will meet Truro School, who emerged victors on a tie-break against the Royal Grammar School, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Full scores in both matches were: St Paul's v Nottingham High (St Paul's names first) James Cavendish bt Stephen Joseph, Darshan Kumaran bt Matthew Kennedy, Alex Selkirk drew with Steven Mar-

well, David Aldridge bt Liam Sewell, Caspar Bates bt James Redburn, Irfan Nathoo bt Geoffrey Hodgett.

Truro match (Truro first): Matthew Piper bt Simon Florence, Jamie Watts drew with Mark Davey, Laurence Jupp lost to Malcolm Streat, Roland Cole drew with Edward Dodds, Craig Fearn drew with Gareth Darcy, Nicholas Worley drew Yanni Yannoulis.

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Young job seekers 'hit by poor education'

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

YOUNG people seeking careers are handicapped by poor education and a confusion about qualifications, it was said yesterday in claims and counter-claims from government and industry.

Peter Morgan, director general of the Institute of Directors, said that traditional education values had had the most damaging influence on the economy. He told a training seminar in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, that academic zealots had produced an elite alienated from industry while less able pupils had also been failed.

Speaking at the same conference last night, John MacGregor, the education secretary, said that the government had recognised shortcomings in the education system, which it was dealing with in its reforms for schools and higher education.

In London, Sir Bryan Nicholson, chairman of the Confederation of British Industry's task force on links between education and industry, said that choosing a career was the first significant decision a young person had to make. It was important that industry and education worked together.

Mr Morgan told the seminar organised by the Business and Technical Education Council that there would have to be big changes in an education system which, he said, was useless as 45 per cent of school-leavers had virtually no qualification except 11 years in school.

He said that standards could be raised only if all schools were independent and the leaving age raised to 18. Other improvements should include more vocational training for youngsters from the age of seven and more involvement by employers to increase the level of vocational skills.

Mr Morgan said: "On the one hand, an elite has been produced which is alienated from business, commerce and industry. At the opposite end of the scale, nearly half of the school-leaving population has just been plain alienated."

Mr MacGregor said that the government's reforms were dealing with most of the criticisms. He said, however, that the range of courses open to school leavers was too complicated and called for a

Survey shows fall in reading ability

READING standards of seven-year-olds have fallen drastically in the past five years, according to a confidential survey (Our Education Editor writes).

Tests on 347,000 seven-year-olds in nine local education authorities have shown that the number of children who are considered to be "extremely poor readers" has increased by 50 per cent. In some areas the figure has doubled.

The figures have been given to *The Times Educational Supplement* by the educational psychologists who undertook the survey. The senior psychologists have not named the authorities, both Labour and Conservative, because they have released the information without their permission.

Reading scores have declined overall by 3.23 per cent indicating a marked decline. The psychologists say that a shift of even half a per cent in a population of 5,000 children is significant.

Some of the authorities test intelligence and number work but those do not show a similar decline.

A senior psychologist who attended a meeting last week to discuss the findings said they implied that either the curriculum or teaching methods were responsible for the decline in reading standards.

Reading and writing are an important part of the National Curriculum introduced by the government under the 1988 Education Reform Act which took effect in primary schools last September.

The national curriculum will require schools to publish the results of tests in English, mathematics and science, beginning with seven-year-olds in April 1992. The first nationwide tests will take place next year, but the results will not be published.

The Department of Education and Science said last night: "All recent reports that we have had indicate a rise in standards."

"Local authorities are known to use a variety of tests to measure reading ability of seven-year-olds. We would need to be sure that the results of this survey compare like with like."

"Different teaching methods for reading are appropriate for different children. It is not for the department to prescribe what teaching methods should be used."

"That must be left to the teachers' professional expertise," the department said.



The artist John Heseltine with his three-quarter length portrait of The Queen at the opening yesterday of his exhibition "London Views", at the David Messum gallery, St George Street, London. The portrait was commissioned by British Aerospace for the Fleet Air Arm and will be on view at the gallery today only

Chronology to be key for National Gallery rehang

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE National Gallery is to undergo its most drastic transformation since it moved into its Trafalgar Square home more than 150 years ago, its chairman, Lord Rothschild, said yesterday.

"It will be the biggest change in how the collection is seen since we came here from Pall Mall in 1838," said Lord Rothschild.

With its new Sainsbury Wing opening next spring to house pre-1500 paintings, the entire collection is to be rehanged in a revolutionary chronological sequence, becoming the first national collection in the world to do so. The traditional arrangement into schools or nationalities is to be abandoned.

"This is in line with modern academic thinking, and we hope that it is going to make more sense to the visiting public as well," said Neil MacGregor, director of the National Gallery. The rehang is to begin immediately, and will take until the spring of 1992 with no major gallery closures.

Lord Rothschild said the increased government building grant—up 15 per cent this year to £5.1 million—had been more than matched by private benefactors to enable the improvements to be done. "We are extremely grateful to the government, but we have still had to compromise: there has not been enough money to change the fifties appearance of the maintenance, and the central hall will remain empty as a public meeting room after the shop as moved to the new wing for the time being until we have money to bring it up

to the standard of the rest of the building.

"Funding is still a huge problem. We are spending as much again on the building as the government has given us and more, and it is a much more difficult time for finding money from the private sector—the Louvre was given £600 million by the French government for its two extensions and we didn't get a penny towards the Sainsbury Wing. To get unrestricted sponsorship is very difficult indeed, and we are demonstrably underfunded."

In its present £12 million building programme, nearly £7 million has come from more than a score of private and business sponsorships. Last year's building budget was £7.8 million, of which £4.4 million came from government funding.

Apart from the £30 million Sainsbury Wing, which will house the gallery's paintings of from 1250 to 1500, work is under way on the new Annenbergs rooms, refurbished with up-to-date air-conditioning, thanks to a \$5 million gift from Walter Annenberg, the former American ambassador to Britain. The three rooms will house the gallery's Impressionist and Post-Impressionist collections, plus the massive Berggruen Collection of modern art, which comes on a five year loan in the autumn. The latest sponsorship is £360,000 from the art dealers Agnews to redecorate the biggest room in the building.

Arts, page 16

Minister in family policy clash

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A MINISTER and the head of a right-wing "think tank" clashed over family policy yesterday, an issue that is expected to be a key feature in the next Tory manifesto.

David Willetts, the director of the Centre for Policy Studies and a former member of the prime minister's policy unit, said that the reasoning behind government moves to encourage women to go back to work was to extend tax relief to workplace nurseries as an intrusion into family life.

However, Gillian Shephard, a junior social security minister, rejected the criticism and said that in the decade ahead more women would want to work to maintain living standards.

Mrs Shephard also implicitly rebuked Mr Willetts over his assertion that the government could not stand aside from changes in family life. She said it was not the government's job to "wring its hands" over the development of social engineering. Rather it should encourage the exercise of personal responsibility and choice in domestic matters.

The exchanges came at a CPS conference in London held a few days after the prime minister's impromptu outline of the next Conservative manifesto in which she said that the government was looking at the whole question of family life.

Saunders denies share deal

ERNEST Saunders, the former Guinness chairman, yesterday denied buying 75,000 Guinness shares to help to keep the price up during the £2.7 billion takeover battle for drinks group Distillers.

Mr John Chadwick, QC, for the prosecution, suggested that Mr Saunders had bought the shares three days after the price had plummeted, using £212,000 he had in a Swiss account. Mr Saunders, giving evidence at Southwark crown court, south London, said that was not true and claimed his co-defendant Sir Jack Lyons

had made the purchase without his knowledge.

Mr Saunders, who is alleged to have been part of an illegal share support scheme to help the Guinness bid, said he had given Sir Jack power of attorney over the money. He said he had not told Sir Jack how the money, from the sale of a house belonging to his late father, was to be invested.

Mr Chadwick told Mr Saunders that in evidence to Department of Trade inspectors investigating the takeover, Sir Jack said he had not done anything with the power

of attorney. If Sir Jack had not bought the shares "there is no one else who could have done except you".

Mr Saunders replied: "I did not have anything to do with the acquisition or instructions to acquire."

Mr Saunders, aged 55, Gerald Ronson, 50, head of Heron International, Anthony Parnes, 45, a stockbroker, and Sir Jack Lyons, 74, variously deny 24 counts, including theft, false accounting and breaches of the Companies Act. The trial was adjourned until today.

Specialists see use of other muscles to recreate heart

By THOMSON PRENTICE, SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE human heart could be recreated from other muscles in the body and used to replace the diseased organ, specialists said yesterday.

The surgery, if perfected, would be an alternative to conventional heart transplantation, which is unlikely ever to have sufficient donor organs to meet the demand, and could solve the problem of transplant rejection.

Operations already have been performed in which the shoulder muscle has been stimulated by electrical impulses and used to support the pumping function of the damaged heart.

The ultimate development of the technique would be to reconstruct a new heart from the muscle, Desmond Julian, consultant medical director of the British Heart Foundation, said yesterday. "Theoretically it could be done," he said.

Several teams of British experts are researching the use of the muscle, the latissimus dorsi, in heart surgery, and similar work is going on in the United States and in France.

French doctors reported in *The Lancet* last month the results of five operations in which muscle fibres were wrapped around the ventricles of the failing heart and made to beat alongside it by electronic stimulation. All the patients showed improved heart function, and four of the five are surviving more than two years after surgery. The fifth lived for two years.

Ken Taylor, the foundation's professor of cardiac surgery at Hammersmith Hospital, west London, said: "I don't think it will be long before we see similar operations in Britain. They won't replace heart transplants but they are another approach."

The muscle can be removed from the shoulder without causing serious disability. It is much stronger than its counterpart in the heart, but it needs to be "taught" to be equally resistant to fatigue in order to mimic the pumping action of the heart.

● A daily dose of aspirin can protect women and their babies at risk of high blood pressure problems during pregnancy. The cheap, simple treatment, combined with a new ultrasound method of detecting the symptoms at an early stage, could represent important advances, according to studies published in *The Lancet* today.

High blood pressure induced by pregnancy can have fatal consequences, especially when it leads to an emergency caesarian section. It can also retard foetal growth and cause premature birth.

Beer increase fuels fear of £1.50 pint

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

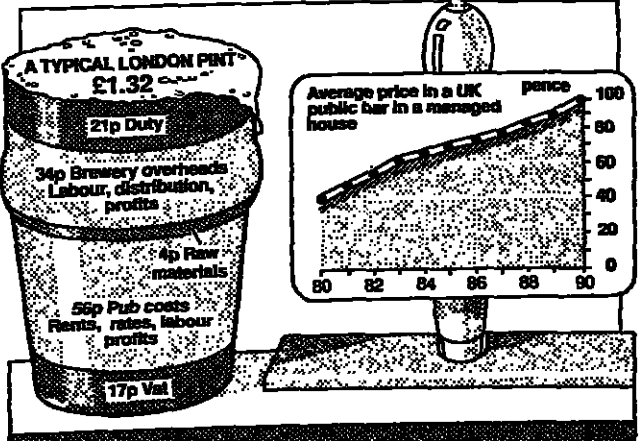
THE price of beer is to rise by at least 7p a pint, prompting fears that the £1.50 pint will soon be common in London public houses.

Amid growing condemnation by consumer groups and publicans, Ind Coope, owned by the food and drinks group Allied Lyons, yesterday announced its increase only weeks after Whitbread announced a 6p rise.

Other breweries among the big six—Bass, Courage, Grand Metropolitan, and Scottish and Newcastle which together produce three-quarters of Britain's beer—are expected to follow suit.

Enquiries by *The Times* disclose that in the past ten years the price of beer has risen by 129.8 per cent while the retail price index has gone up by 90.82 per cent, despite the claims of the industry that its increases are in line with inflation.

The new rises in beer prices fuelled City speculation that, following last year's Monopolies and Mergers Commission report which aimed to break the stranglehold of the big



breweries, Allied might want to boost its profits before selling its brewing interests.

That, however, was denied by Clive Hunt, commercial operations executive for Allied Breweries Ltd, who said: "The price increase bears no relationship to any future strategy. There is much speculation in the whole industry and speculation is what it is." Nevertheless, sources in the industry said the big brewers might be raising prices in order to provide a

cushion for their uncertain future.

Under Department of Trade regulations in the wake of the commission's report, the brewers have until November next year to sell off half the pubs they own in excess of 2,000. Between them, it was found, the big six owned 34,000 pubs. Another regulation that tied houses be allowed to sell one "guest" beer from a rival brewer came into effect on May 1.

The increase in beer prices,

which could amount to nearer 10p per pint once VAT and a tenant's own margins are taken into account, will come into force on July 9.

Ind Coope, which operates in southeast England, will raise prices in its managed pubs by 7p a pint and an increase of 5-6p will be passed on to more than 1,100 tenants.

John Overton, chief executive of the National Licensed Victuallers' Association, said the rise was an embarrassment for publicans. "Everybody is shocked. It will mean having to put up the price of a pint by up to 10p when customers are being hit by high mortgage rates and the poll tax."

According to the Campaign for Real Ale, the average cost of a pint of bitter is London £1.30, Birmingham £1.05, Manchester £1 and Glasgow £1.15, but the national average for the whole of United Kingdom is said to be £1 a pint.

Philip Davies, managing director of Ind Coope Retail Ltd, said: "Everybody is always anxious about price increases... We have gone for substantially less than the current rate of inflation."

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Sharpest rise since national statistics started in 1857

Recorded offences climb by 15% to 4m

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

RECORDED crime in England and Wales rose by 15 per cent in the first three months of this year, according to Home Office figures published yesterday. The figures represent the sharpest rise in recorded crime since national records began in 1857.

The rise, which the prime minister said was very disappointing, stemmed largely from big recorded increases in offences such as burglary, which the government had hoped might have fallen in response to continuing crime prevention drives. Officials said that increased reporting could not have affected the figures over such a short period.

Home Office ministers have been so alarmed about the trend that they have privately canvassed chief constables for an explanation. The answers ranged from courts being too lenient in sentencing and their use of bail through to the impact of a warm winter, encouraging more young people on to the streets. None gave lack of police manpower as a reason.

Thefts rose by 16 per cent in the first quarter, burglaries by 18 per cent and criminal damage by 12 per cent. Violent crimes, however, pro-

vided some comfort as assaults increased by 4 per cent, the same level as in the last quarter of last year, and sexual offences dropped by 5 per cent.

Figures for the latest 12-month period suggest that the marked upward trend indicated by last year's figures, which followed a much lauded 5 per cent fall in total recorded crime in 1988, is being sustained.

In the year to March 31 1990, a record four million offences were recorded, an increase of 323,000, or 9 per cent, compared with the same period last year. The annual average rise between 1980 and last year has been 5 per cent.

In the 12-month period there were 57,500 more thefts of motor vehicles, a 16 per cent rise, 44,500 more thefts from vehicles (up 7 per cent), 64,000 more burglaries (up 8 per cent) and 49,000 more offences of criminal damage (up 8 per cent).

Unveiling the figures, John Patten, Home Office minister, said that crime was plainly too high and that the country was suffering a mini-explosion of petty and avoidable crime. Of particular concern was that about a quarter of car thefts were caused by owners leaving windows open or doors unlocked.

Mr Patten said that the police could not be blamed for the increase in recorded offences as crime was the responsibility of the whole community. He said that everyone needed to reassess their attitudes to crime.

"The police have to continue their strides towards greater efficiency, the government must ensure that it does all it can to promote crime prevention, and individual citizens need to take much greater care of their property," Teachers and parents had also to do more to prevent crime by instilling constructive attitudes in children, he added.

Mr Patten said he believed that neighbourhood watch schemes were helping to reduce the number of burglaries, but that the benefits were limited so far because only four million households were covered by the initiative.

Mrs Thatcher voiced her anxiety about the figures to MPs during question time in the Commons. However, she denied that poor police morale was a factor and, in a reference to a recent international crime survey, she said that violent crime was lower in Britain than in some other countries.

Leading article, page 11

The publication of quarterly crime statistics yesterday will lead to a debate about trends in law-breaking. Quentin Cowdry, *Our Home Affairs Correspondent*, reports on the background to the collection and interpretation of these and other statistics on law-breaking.

FOR most people, the idea that Britain is gripped by a crime wave is axiomatic. However, while the media and politicians argue about causes and solutions, criminologists are increasingly uncertain about how big the wave has been.

The source of their unease is the emphasis traditionally placed on recorded crime figures, the statistics compiled by individual police forces and published quarterly by the Home Office. If police record crime more assiduously or more offences are brought to their attention, the "official" measure might give an exaggerated impression of real crime trends. Research over the past decade clearly shows that it has done.

Only in recent years with the arrival of victim surveys—studies of the crimes actually experienced by individuals rather than those they choose to report—have researchers begun to get a better grasp of underlying trends. Unfortunately, these started in only 1976, with the first national example, the British Crime Survey (BCS), coming six years later.

A graph of recorded crime between 1900 and 1990 shows that in the Edwardian era there was a relatively low and constant crime rate of around 100,000 notifiable offences a year. That was followed by a sharp rise in the depressed inter-war years, with the figure reaching 310,000 in 1940.

There was more modest growth in the years of reconstruction and then, from the mid-1950s, another sharp increase. Last year, 3.9 million offences were recorded, eight times the 1950 total and more



Caught in the act: an armed bank robber, who has since been jailed, providing one more violent crime statistic

than 38 times the number recorded in 1920.

Since 1960 recorded crime has risen by an average of five per cent a year to the frustration of Labour and Conservative governments and an ever-growing police service.

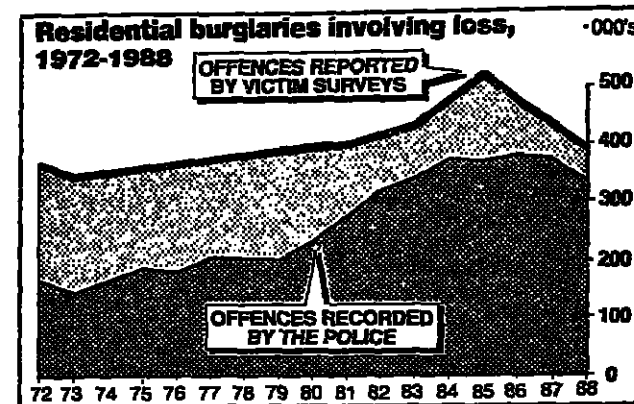
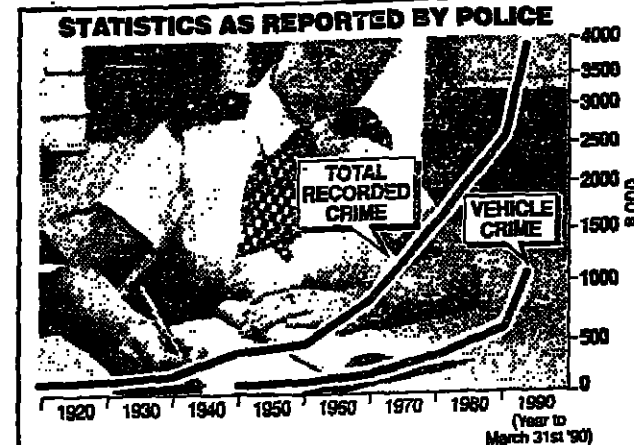
Public opinion has, however, been more alarmed by the sharper increases in recorded violent offences. While total recorded crime has risen almost five-fold in the past 30 years, violent offences have increased more than 11-fold. However, the three BCS surveys, conducted in 1982, 1985 and 1988, suggest that police figures have over-stated the gradient. Based on face-to-face interviews with one adult in each of some 10,000 households in England and Wales, they estimate that overall crime actually rose by 30 per cent from 1981-87, a substantial rise but not as great as the 41 per cent indicated by police figures.

Changes in reporting can have an even more distorting impact on the recorded levels of specific crimes. Since 1972, the General Household Survey (GHS) has intermittently included a question on burglary.

If the results of these are combined with BCS research it emerges that residential burglaries involving loss rose by just 17 per cent from 1972-87. According to police statistics, the increase was 127 per cent, almost eight times more. The reason for this is probably greater reporting, fuelled by expanding home ownership and broader insurance cover.

According to the GHS, victims made claims against only 19 per cent of burglaries in 1972, compared with 42 per cent of burglaries in 1987.

The distorting effect which improved reporting can have on crime figures applies particularly to violent and



sexual offences. Over the past decade reporting of offences such as rape, child abuse and domestic violence has steadily increased as public intolerance of the crimes has grown and police have become more responsive in their approach to them.

As a result, recorded increases for some of the most emotive and fear-inducing crimes have far exceeded the trend for total recorded crime. For example, recorded rapes in England and Wales have risen by 32 per cent since January 1988. In the same period the overall crime rate has dropped by 1 per cent. Between 1978 and 1988 violent offences went up by an average of 6.2 per cent a year, while total crime rose by 3.8 per cent a year.

Comparisons with BCS findings provide further clues as to why violent crime appears to be increasing so fast. Police recorded a 40 per cent

some personal crimes, notably domestic violence.

As police have become more receptive to complaints by battered women, victims have grown more confident about approaching the police. According to the BCS, about a fifth of women who suffered domestic assaults in 1981 reported the offences; in 1987, the ratio had increased to half.

An analysis of the notifiable assaults recorded by six police forces in 1985 and 1987 showed that assaults in the home accounted for almost one third of the rise. Street brawls accounted for another third. Of the 3.9 million offences recorded last year 240,000, six per cent, were violent offences and of those just 30,000, or 0.8 per cent, were sexual.

Less serious assaults, called woundings in police statistics, account for two-thirds of violent crime. Study of homicide figures over the past 130 years provides a useful antidote to the popular view that Britain today lives more in the shadow of the gunman and mugger than at any time in its history.

Taken as a proportion of population, the homicide rate, including murder and manslaughter, was greater in the 1860s, when reliable figures first began to be collated, than in the 1980s, with the highest level reached in 1867. In that year there were 1.8 homicides in England and Wales per 100,000 people. The present rate is 1.3 per 100,000.

Between 1980 and 1990 the homicide rate fell sharply and remained roughly constant until 1960, when it began to increase rapidly.

Criminologists believe that rising crime stems from two factors. The first is greater wealth leading to more targets for criminals such as burglars and car thieves. The second is "negative" social changes, such as the growing divorce and illegitimacy rate, falling educational standards and the widening gap between rich and poor. The question of how the factors are weighted is the centre of fierce debate.

Leading article, page 11

Treasury pressed on riots bill

THE Home Office, determined to maintain the pace of its prison building and refurbishment programme, is expected to ask for an extra £35 million from the Treasury later this year to cover the costs of the spring jail riots (Quentin Cowdry writes).

David Waddington, the home secretary, is prepared to resist Treasury pressure for the Home Office to squeeze savings out of its prison budget to help to meet the cost of the disturbances. While unconvinced that the riots stemmed entirely from poor jail conditions, he thinks the department should keep to its work programme.

An initial bill for the rioting drawn up by the department puts the cost of structural damage at £34 million, all but £4 million at Strangeways prison, Manchester.

The bill for the 25-day siege at Strangeways is based on returning the jail to its state before the riot. Ministers have agreed to spend another £30 million on it to bring it near to the standard of new prisons.

Makers given warning as car theft increases

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

DAVID Waddington, the home secretary, yesterday warned manufacturers that they must do more to tackle car crimes, which are costing Britain nearly £1 billion a year.

Officials from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, which represents manufacturers and importers, were called in by Mr Waddington who told them that thefts and break-ins involving cars accounted for a quarter of all recorded crime. This "caused inconvenience and unnecessary expenditure, both of time and money, by drivers, insurance companies and the police", he said.

The society met the home

secretary under the threat that the Home Office would produce a list of cars most vulnerable to theft to force vehicle manufacturers to make security a priority in design. The move could cost manufacturers huge sales if their models were named by the Home Office.

Mr Waddington gave the industry a second chance yesterday and the society agreed to hold urgent talks with manufacturers and then report back to him on a number of issues. These included discussing a mandatory European standard for vehicle security, indicating what plans there were for better security systems, and encouraging buyers to give security a higher priority.

A survey covering 20 of the largest towns in England and Wales published yesterday by the Bristol-based motor insurance firm Insurance Service, showed that Leeds was the worst city for car thefts and break-ins.

Car crime is becoming one of the greatest losses for insurance companies as thefts and break-ins grow to almost one million a year. Richard Hill, managing director of Insurance Service, said: "The average claim we receive as a result of autocrime is around the £500 mark, but many, particularly where stolen vehicles are not recovered, are considerably higher."

The risk factor, based on the number of reported crimes per 1,000 people, showed Leeds at 44.2, followed by Bristol at 43.6 and Northampton, considered a quiet Midlands market town, at 41.3. Luton was fourth with 39.9 and Greater Manchester next with 34.2. Surprisingly, Greater London comes 11th, with a rating of 28.8.

The study of regional crime shows Northumbria as the area with the worst record for car crime in 1989. The region,

which covers Northumbria and Tyne and Wear, had more than 54,600 reported crimes involving cars last year, leading to an risk factor of 36.4. Second place was taken by Thames Valley with 35.4, next was Greater Manchester with 34.2, Cleveland 29.5 and Greater London with 28.8. Derbyshire showed the greatest increase in reported car crimes, up by 21.2 per cent over 1988 figures.

Statistics for theft only showed Greater Manchester to be the worst area with 39,943 cars taken from owners last year. The figure was 4.6 per cent greater than 1988, although the biggest single increase in thefts was in Surrey where the rate of reported crimes rose 46.3 per cent. However, just 1,514 and took the county into 41st place in the Insurance Service table.

The Insurance Service is advising customers not to park in high risk areas and to take the simple precautions of always taking the key from the ignition. Mr Hill said: "It is amazing how many people forget to carry out simple precautions such as locking up and hiding bags and valuables from view."

CAR CRIMES

Town	Risk factor	Crimes (%)
1 Leeds	44.2	18,877
2 Bristol	43.6	16,913
3 Northampton	41.3	8,485
4 Luton	39.9	6,543
5 St. Manchester	34.2	8,148
6 Brighton	32.6	4,781
7 Birmingham	32.6	32,456
8 Walsall	32.3	5,773
9 Wolverhampton	31.7	8,007
10 Hull	30	8,025
11 St. London	28.8	19,810
12 Stoke	27.9	7,082
13 Dudley	25.3	4,738
14 Bradford	23.2	3,526
15 Plymouth	21.6	5,268
16 Portsmouth	20.9	3,744
17 Swansea	20.7	3,470
18 Southampton	19.4	3,557
19 Sunderland	18.4	3,564
20 Newcastle	17.2	3,288

West Midlands enquiry clears four policemen

By CRAIG SETON

THE enquiry begun 10 months ago into allegations against the former West Midlands police serious crime squad has so far resulted in no charges of criminal or disciplinary offences. Ronald Hadfield, the chief constable, said yesterday.

The first four officers were cleared by the investigation and will be reinstated to normal duties. They were among 36 detectives who were moved to non-operational duties last August when Geoffrey Dear, the former chief constable, disbanded the elite crime squad and ordered an enquiry into allegations that evidence in criminal investigations had been fabricated.

Mr Hadfield's action comes only three weeks after he took over as head of the force. Mr Hadfield said Mr Dear, now inspector of constabulary for the Midlands, supported what he was doing and he supported what his predecessor had done last August. He said that the crime squad would not be reinstated.

Mr Hadfield said that although the investigation by Donald Shaw, assistant chief constable of West Yorkshire, into the activities of the crime squad would continue, no officers had been charged with criminal or disciplinary offences and the investigation had not yet told that any officer under investigation should be suspended from duty.

Mr Dear acted when several criminal court cases collapsed after allegations that suspects' statements had been tampered with. More than 50 officers were affected by his action, but 17 who did not have crucial detective functions were returned earlier to normal duties. Mr Dear said last August that officers were being moved to give the enquiry into the squad a "clear run" and he acknowledged that many officers who would eventually be hurt by his decision.

After his action, a team of 21 officers under Mr Shaw began investigating evidence in over 700 cases involving serious crime squad officers between 1986 and 1989.

Mr Hadfield said yesterday that the process of removing the "non-operational" title from former crime squad officers would not impede the continuing investigation and he rejected suggestions that it might be perceived as a whitewash. He wanted to ensure that no officer was unjustly kept on non-operational duty. Many had been under a terrible strain.

During the investigation, complaints had been made against other officers who were not posted to non-operational duties and it was an anomaly to have officers being treated in different ways. The term "non operational duty" did not appear in the police disciplinary code, which recognized only full duty or suspension.

He said no one could doubt the "implacable determination" of West Midlands police to prevent behaviour of the kind alleged or to deal with anyone engaged in such conduct with all the strength the law provided. He would be disappointed if officers who had committed any of the alleged offences did not appear in court. Mr Hadfield said: "I would be offended if anyone suggested a whitewash before Mr Shaw has completed his enquiry."

Peer's dog attacked walker

The Marquess of Bristol was ordered to keep an Irish wolfhound under proper control yesterday after it attacked a man walking his dog at his home at Ickworth House, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

The dog escaped from a paddock after a gate was left open and bit a man and his cocker spaniel as they walked in the grounds, which are administered by the National Trust. The man was injured on the arm, hip and hand as he tried to beat the wolfhound off with a branch and the spaniel received four wounds, magistrates at Bury St Edmunds were told.

David Stewart, for the defence, said Lord Bristol, who owns three Irish wolfhounds, admitted the offence. The gate had been left open by contractors working at the house and security had since been tightened, he said.

Expenses charge

A management adviser with the department of social security was committed for trial at Southwark crown court by Horseferry Road magistrates. Carole Hall, aged 40, of Tadley, Hampshire, charged with obtaining £326.33 in expenses by deception, was granted unconditional bail.

Hunt resumes

Police investigating the deaths of Peter and Gwendolyn Dixon, who were shot dead a year ago yesterday on the Pembrokeshire coastal path near Little Haven, are interviewing returning holidaymakers to try to gain new leads.

Oil on stream

Oil has started flowing through a 56-mile pipeline linking the Wych Farm oil field at Poole, Dorset, with a BP refinery at Hamble, in Hampshire.

Novel earnings

A bookcase belonging to E.M. Forster, bought for £10 at a sale of effects from the novelist's rooms at King's College, Cambridge, after his death in 1970 sold for £600 at auction in Cambridge.

Advice shunned

A debt advice centre in Hull, where council house tenants owe £2.5 million in rent arrears, is being closed because it is under used.

Water profits

Welsh Water, a privatised water company, announced a first-year profit of £39.5 million, £4 million more than expected.

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100 beaches face threat of EC prosecution

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN faces the threat of prosecution in the European Court over more than 100 bathing beaches that fail to meet EC water quality standards, it emerged yesterday. That is in spite of the government's £3 billion sewage treatment programme to bring beaches into line.

The new threat comes on top of an earlier EC prosecution now going forward over water quality at Blackpool, Southport and Formby beaches in the northwest. It was delivered to Chris Patten, the environment secretary, in a letter from in a letter from Signor Carlo Ripa di Meana, the European environment commissioner. Government officials, however, claim the latest threat is based on out-of-date and incorrect information.

Signor Ripa di Meana made a preliminary but formal enquiry about all the British beaches designated under the EC's 1975 bathing water directive which failed to meet the specified water quality standards. That enquiry can

eventually lead to prosecution in the European Court if Brussels officials are not satisfied with what the government is doing about the beaches' standards.

However, Signor Ripa di Meana referred to the 1988 figures, which listed 136 British beaches out of the 403 officially designated as failing to meet standards. In 1989, 57 of these failures were brought into line and passed, leaving 104 bathing beaches out of a new total of 440 in the United Kingdom that did not come up to standard.

The commissioner made no reference to the up-to-date information, although it was sent to the European Commission in January. He also took no account of the British clean-up programme, details of which have also been sent to Brussels.

David Trippier, the environment minister, who wrote to the commissioner yesterday, said: "We invited the commission to discuss the programme with us, and have repeated this invitation on a number of occasions. The first and only response from the commission has been this letter. This is clearly a silly way to proceed."

He went on: "Her Majesty's Government is committed to bringing all of our bathing waters up to standard. We announced a £1.4 billion programme last year, and since then have announced an additional £1.5 billion to ensure that all sewage is treated before discharge. Such a large investment programme cannot be completed overnight."

The significance of the latest EC action is that the British clean-up programme, although expensive and stretching over the next ten years, may not be enough to stave off an enormous generalised prosecution in the European Court, especially at the hands of such a green enthusiast as Signor Ripa di Meana has now become. It can be assumed that his legal proceedings over the 136 beaches that failed standards in 1988, even though it is based on incorrect information, will extend to the 104 that are still failures.

Yesterday his most senior official, Laurens Brinkhorst, the Dutch director general of the EC's environment department, said that there was an enormous sensitivity over the question of beaches, not only in the United Kingdom but in the Mediterranean.

"The United Kingdom has been relatively late in looking at the bathing water directive," he said. "In the last programme, a significant number of new beaches were announced and I welcome the very progressive way in which Mr Patten is trying to correct past negligence."

Call for stricter measures on beef

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE government was urged yesterday to restore consumer confidence in beef by taking extra measures to eradicate "mad cow" disease from British cattle and to minimise any threat to human health.

Further precautions going "beyond the strict scientific evidence" were needed because so many questions about the disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), remained unanswered, the National Consumer Council said in written evidence to the common agricultural select committee.

Extra measures the council would like to see include the incineration of all slaughtered cattle heads; a ban on the use of bovine offals in pig, poultry and pet food; extension of the offal ban to cattle under six months old; the slaughter and incineration of all offspring of BSE-infected cows, with full compensation to farmers, or failing that a ban on breeding from these offspring; random sampling of the brain tissue of apparently healthy cattle after slaughter to get a clearer picture of BSE incidence; and introduction of full ingredient labelling of animal feeds.

Britain will press for controls on killing of dolphins

By LIN JENKINS

DOLPHINS are being slaughtered to extinction by the international fishing industry, with many hundreds of thousands more dying each year than previously thought, according to a report published today.

The figure of 500,000 recorded killings each year will form the basis of pressure from Britain at next week's meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) for controls on the slaughter to be introduced.

Experts have warned that some species will be extinct within a year if unregulated killing does not stop. The chief culprit identified in the report that is increasingly fishing for dolphins and porpoises to compensate for the reduced whale catch include Japan.

Many more die from modern fishing methods, becoming entangled in tuna nets or in drift nets up to 40ft wide that allow no means of escape.

The study, conducted over seven months by a team of 12 from the Environmental Investigation Agency, concludes that the recorded kill of 500,000 may be only a quarter to a third of the actual figure. Japan, according to the study, kills at least 100,000 a year. Sometimes they are killed for meat for human consumption in the areas where dolphin has always been a delicacy, or the meat is passed off as whale, or used as pet food.

The number of Dalls porpoise, a small black dolphin, has been reduced by 70 per cent in the past three years and could face extinction within a year if controls are not placed on Japanese fishermen. Allan Thomson, chairman of the

agency, said: "Another year will see it wiped out completely. Something has to be done now. There are other species facing similar problems that are likely to disappear before the end of this century."

For the past ten years Japan has led the opposition to the introduction of conservation measures for small cetaceans within the IWC, and has been supported by other dolphin-killing nations such as Denmark, Mexico, Peru, Chile and France.

The study found that Peru killed 50,000 a year in directed hunts. Chile killed many thousands for crab bait, and in Venezuela 41,000 were caught in tuna and shark fisheries. Off America, an estimated 20,000 are killed each year.

Canada, Korea, Taiwan and Mexico also slaughter dolphins, and in Europe 1,000 die in drift nets off the west of Ireland, and 6,000 are killed by Italian fishermen catching swordfish.

John Gummer, the agriculture minister, yesterday met representatives from the Environmental Investigation Agency, and pledged Britain's backing for controls at next week's annual meeting of the IWC.

British holidaymakers who pose with chimpanzees for photographs at Spanish resorts are perpetuating an appalling form of cruelty, the charity Zoo Check said yesterday. The animals are routinely beaten and drugged into submission, and at around five years old they become too difficult to handle and are killed to make way for another younger one.



Darryl Clarke, aged eight, singing at Waterloo station yesterday as part of a £1.5 million fund-raising effort for the I Can organisation's Meath school, at Ottershaw, Surrey, which helps children with speech disorders

Homosexual ban rejected by Methodists

By RUTH GLEDHILL

THE Methodist conference, meeting in Cardiff, yesterday refused to be hurried into a decision on the issue of homosexual and lesbian ministers, but overwhelmingly rejected demands that practising homosexuals should not be considered for ordination.

The two-hour debate on the report of a commission on human sexuality aroused fears among some ministers and lay members that homosexuals might be accepted for ordination only to be rejected by a church once ordained, or that selection bodies in some areas might prove more liberal than others, leaving the ordination of homosexuals to chance.

Moves to affirm that the practices and lifestyle of a homosexual go contrary to Methodist teachings, that homosexual acts have no place in the Christian ethic and that a practising homosexual should not be considered for ordination were rejected.

The report, which was received but not endorsed, will be returned with extra material to the Methodist churches, circuits and districts for study. Proposals about the time and way in which the conference can reach a de-

cision on the issue will be prepared for next year.

The Rev John Newton, chairman of the commission and a former minister at the West London Mission, said: "We have committed ourselves to looking much more seriously at the arguments on both sides of the issue. This is going to have immense pastoral consequences in some areas of methodism," he said.

The Rev John Waterhouse, of Leeds, said in the debate: "It would be an intrusion of the most severe order to explore the sexuality of a candidate. We are therefore prepared to accept them, regardless of their orientation or practice."

The report admits that the burden of biblical evidence was to reject homosexuality, but the commission members agreed that no one should be excluded from ordained ministry simply on the ground of their sexuality.

The commission recommends "that the church continues to leave the judgment about each candidate to the discretion of those appointed to make such a judgment, without giving any specific instructions in relation to a candidate's sexuality."

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'Bully' Clarke under fire

HOUSE OF LORDS

MINISTERS were accused yesterday of offering a calculated insult to the House of Lords by the way they had handled amendments to the National Health Service and Community Care bill. Kenneth Clarke, the health secretary, was described as a bully boy.

When peers considered the reasons the Commons had given for rejecting their amendments to the bill, Lord Emswale, chief Opposition spokesman on health, said that he was deeply dissatisfied at the way Lords amendments had been handled. The Commons debate had ended only in the early hours of that morning, so no Hansard report of the later proceedings was available for scrutiny.

"This is a monstrous and unacceptable way to treat the House and the detailed consideration we gave to this bill. This treatment of the House by the government is outrageous. It is a calculated insult by the prime minister, the secretary of state and the cabinet."

"My charge is not against ministers (in the Lords) who dealt with the bill from the front bench, but against the government. I think we are entitled to an explanation as to why it was decided their lordships' business should be conducted in this way."

"The secretary of state has been behaving like a bully boy in the way he handled the arguments we put forward with great seriousness. The government's handling of this whole bill, not just these amendments and not just the efforts of this House, is despicable. I want to express my deep anger at the way your lordships have been treated."

Lord Belstead, leader of the House of Lords, said that it was not unusual at this stage in the session for the two Houses to take final stages of a bill on successive days. The government had tried to accommodate the House and the Opposition. The Commons amendments were accepted without a division and the bill now awaits royal assent.

Thatcher's 'tin pot' nationalism criticised

PRIME MINISTER

MARGARET Thatcher's approach to negotiations at the Dublin summit this week were condemned by Neil Kinnock in the Commons yesterday.

The influence of Britain was not advanced and the interests of Britain not served by her "tin pot, tin drum nationalism", he said.

The leader of the Opposition's comments came when he was responding to a statement by Mrs Thatcher on the European Council.

Mrs Thatcher had told MPs that completion of the single market represented the biggest and most far-reaching change under way in Western Europe.

The government's determination to see national identities fully respected was understood and increasingly shared.

"The debate is more and more about how to make existing community institutions more effective. We shall continue to argue that the community should be involved only where particular objectives cannot be achieved by national action."

She commended the proposals by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the hard ecu and the government would ensure that they were fully considered before and at the intergovernmental conference in December. "I reminded my colleagues of the strong opposition expressed by this House to economic and monetary union on the basis proposed in the Delors report", she said.

Mr Kinnock asked her to state exactly where the government now stood on European monetary union.

Last Tuesday, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the deputy prime minister,

described John Major's proposal for a hard ecu as being perfectly capable of leading to a single European currency.

Robin Leigh-Pemberton, governor of the Bank of England, had described the proposal as a useful step towards a single European currency. Mr Major and Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, obviously felt the same.

The prime minister had said that it must not come in her lifetime and yet on Tuesday in Dublin she signed a specific commitment and a specific timetable.

"How long does she hope to keep up this two-faced performance, especially when it confuses her friends and it does not even impress her neighbours?"

The council of ministers had agreed to intensify the process of European union in economic, monetary and political terms and to enter ratification by the end of 1992.

"The prime minister signed up to all of that and still she says it is the others who are coming into line with us."

"Is she really trying to tell us that all along she has secretly been in favour of integration on this scale? Or is it more the truth that at last the modern realities of the community are beginning to impress themselves even on the lady of Bruges?"

Mrs Thatcher responded by quoting Mr Major's speech in which the proposals of a hard ecu were set out. The chancellor had said that, in the very long term, if the peoples and governments chose, the hard ecu could develop into a single currency. That decision could not be taken now because they could not foresee the size and institutions of the new Europe.

She said: "I do not think it could develop into a single European currency without



altering the European monetary fund."

She had signed a "procedural motion" for an intergovernmental conference. Britain would save its detailed arguments for the conference.

European and monetary union was signed as part of the terms of entering the community in 1972. It was still incorporated after entry was renegotiated by Lord Callaghan of Cardiff.

Paddy Ashdown, leader of the Liberal Democrats, sought from Mrs Thatcher an unequivocal answer to the question which he asserted she had dodged: would Britain join the single European currency under her leadership—yes, no or maybe?

Mrs Thatcher said that Mr Ashdown could not have listened to that part of the chancellor's speech which she had read and which said that "that is not a decision we should take now".

She added later: "When you surrender all your powers over monetary and budgetary policy you have not got a lot of sovereignty left, and it would not be acceptable to this House. It would diminish fundamentally the powers of this House."

William Cash (Stafford, C) congratulated Mrs Thatcher on her achievements in maintaining the authority of Westminster over Britain's economy, on vital matters of public spending and taxation.

Mrs Thatcher said that the argument on accountability made more headway each time the matter was raised, and many people were concerned that stages two and three of Delors did not properly address that question.

Christopher Gill (Ludlow, C) asked about the prospects of convincing Britain's European partners that it was better to encourage the private sector to invest in Eastern Europe rather than taxpayers' money should be squandered on centralised schemes of dubious economic benefit in an effort to help Eastern Europe to create a free market economy.

Mrs Thatcher agreed that it was much better for the private sector to invest because it would be beneficial also to send good management with investment to show how the private sector operated. That would produce a much more prosperous standard of living for the people of Eastern Europe.

Mr John D. Taylor (Stratford, UUP) suggested that the prime minister had committed herself to a process that would inevitably lead to a federal Europe, a single currency, a central bank and the eventual "demolition" of the nation's sovereignty.

Mrs Thatcher said that he was giving a false impression.

Peter Shore (Bethnal Green and Stepney, Lab) said that there were great dangers of Britain's being "sucked into" decisions in the EC against its interests and against the wishes of the prime minister. The people and the media were terribly ill informed about the dangers of being locked into permanently fixed exchange rates.

Mrs Thatcher said that she was against locked currencies and against a single currency. She did not believe that Britain would be sucked in.

Tony Benn (Chesterfield, Lab) said there was no electoral mandate for the type of economic, monetary and political union that was to be discussed further at the special meeting later this year. Sovereignty did not belong to the Commons, but to those who put MPs there and could remove them. It was time the prime minister stopped beating the nationalist drum at the same time as taking us further and further into an impossible.

Mrs Thatcher said that she agreed with a step-by-step approach to increasing co-operation in those things on which it was wise to co-operate, such as defence, security and trade, but she did not agree with giving up sovereignty and going into anything like a federation of European countries.

Sale was web of deception, says Labour

ROVER-BAE

MINISTERS came under strong attack in the Commons over their role in the sale of Rover to British Aerospace, with Gordon Brown, Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, accusing them of entering an elaborate web of deception.

He said that the House had been deliberately kept in the dark. Ministers had decided as a matter of policy not only to deceive the European Commission but Parliament as well. Mr Brown was speaking in a statement by Nicholas Ridley, trade and industry secretary, outlining the government's response to the commission's ruling that £44 million in "sweeteners" paid as part of the deal would have to be repaid by BAE.

Mr Brown called for confirmation that the government had given away millions of pounds of taxpayers' money wrongly by deferring payment of the Rover group purchase price. He asked Mr Ridley to confirm that money was illegally paid and that ministers had even held a detailed discussion on the risks of being found out.

They had considered how omissions in the national accounts might or might not be noticed by some MPs. They considered making late payments of cash just as if they were made earlier.

How could Mr Ridley come to the House and justify these abuses as "necessary behaviour"?

Was he seriously telling them that in any other sale of public assets to a private company, the government would offer similar hidden subsidies and mislead yet again?

Why had there been no full explanation of events, no apology, no admission of responsibility, no statement as to who was to accept the blame and no new rules to prevent similar abuses?

"Does this sorry and shameful tale of incompetence and deception, and incompetence even in deception, now followed by this humiliating public rebuke in front of the whole of Europe, not emphasise that the short-term absence with the privatisation at any price and at any cost overrode all consideration of the public interest up to and including the good name and integrity of the government?"

Mr Ridley said that the items were all properly reported to Parliament. Mr Brown had accused him of tax concessions, hidden tax deals, fiddles and secret meetings. It was not true.

"I want him to undertake to withdraw those allegations. Either put up or shut up."

Alexander Callaghan (Montgomery, Lib Dem) asked if the prime minister and Lord Young of Gifford, then trade and industry secretary, had been ad-

vised that aspects of the deal were likely to be regarded as unlawful, before its approval.

Mr Ridley replied that Lord Young did receive legal advice from the Department. He alone was responsible (loud Labour laughter).

Sir Hal Miller (Bromsgrove, C) said that they should not indulge in conspiracy, muck-raking and denigration of a successful company and successful workers.

Alan Williams (Swansea West, Lab) said that the government had behaved illegally. Why had Mr Ridley come to the House without having checked on the legal advice given to his predecessor?

Mr Ridley said that no question of that sort arose. Paul Channon (Southend West, C), former trade and industry secretary, said that a prosperous and efficient car industry was what mattered.

The taxpayer had poured billions of pounds into this company and had been liable to pour in even more. The solution had saved the taxpayer a great deal and had provided a prosperous industry for the future.

Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab) said that the Attorney-General was sitting story-fact alongside Mr Ridley. Would Mr Ridley confer with him and obtain confirmation from him that the prime minister and Lord Young of Gifford had been told that this deal was unlawful?

Mr Ridley said the Attorney-General was satisfied with what he had told the House.

Timothy Janman (Thurrock, C) asked if Mr Ridley could confirm that Commissioner Millan, a former Labour MP, had voted against the commission's recommendations because he wanted them to be even more harsh. To try to gain political advantage in such a way would be outrageous. Commissioner Millan might even have been put up to that by Mr Brown.

Mr Ridley suggested that Mr Brown should respond to that point and said that Mr Brown's part in these affairs had been rather unsavoury.

Robert Cryer (Bradford South, Lab) suggested that many people had "got off extremely lightly" with a helpful report from former Tory minister Lord Brown (now a Commissioner), who had himself been severely criticised by a select committee for his duplicity. Would Mr Ridley confirm that Lord Young and the prime minister had received information that this "rip off" of hundreds of millions of pounds from the taxpayer was illegal?

Mr Ridley said that both Mr Cryer's suggestions were untrue.

Mandela speech request refused

A proposal that Nelson Mandela should be invited to address Parliament was rejected by Sir Geoffrey Howe, leader of the Commons.

Dr John Cunningham, shadow leader of the House, asked if the government could find suitable accommodation for the ANC leader to make a speech when he came to Britain next week.

Mr Mandela might be invited to speak from the royal gallery of the House of Lords. It would be a fine setting for a historic occasion.

Sir Geoffrey said he could not accept the suggestion because there was a wide variation in the accommodation traditionally made available. The offer to speak from the royal gallery was rarely extended.

Exhaust gases to be checked

MoT tests on cars and light vans are to include a check of vehicle exhaust emissions, Cecil Parkinson, transport secretary, said in a Commons written reply.

The check, to be introduced next year, will not cover motor cycles, vehicles with catalytic converters and diesel engines. The measure, requiring a check of the carbon monoxide content of exhaust gases, is intended to encourage motorists to keep their engines in tune.

Land registry to be agency

The land registry will become an executive agency on Monday, Sir Patrick Mayhew, Attorney-General, said in a Commons written reply.

The key productivity target for the agency would be to reduce unit costs in real terms by 6 per cent in the three years from next April. Handling applications before completion of purchases, part of the conveyancing process, is to be speeded.

11 million shareholders

The latest survey for the company and Stock Exchange, in January and February this year, showed that nearly 11 million people in the United Kingdom owned shares, Peter Lilley, financial secretary to the Treasury, said in a written reply.

Time running out for beleaguered Rifkind

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TIME is running out for Malcolm Rifkind, the increasingly beleaguered Scottish secretary, as he wrestles with an unwieldy legal reform bill and an even more unwieldy group of backbenchers.

Serious doubts are being expressed at Westminster whether Mr Rifkind will be able to deliver his legislation intact in the four short weeks left before the recess and in the face of widespread discontent among his motley troupe of MPs. Even more worrying for one of the brightest and youngest members of the cabinet is the whisper that the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) bill could be his undoing after four years in one of the most thankless jobs in the government.

Mr Rifkind, aged 44, has had a wretched year. He was pitched into the Scottish hot-seat during the Westland fiasco, then rushed into the Ministry of Defence to fill the slot so suddenly vacated by Michael Heseltine.

It began with the Budget fiasco over poll tax concessions. Mr Rifkind and his colleagues all failed to foresee the ensuing uproar when the government gave no indication that it intended to extend the extra help north of the border. The result was first confusion then an embarrassing climbdown amid reports that the Scottish Secretary would resign unless Margaret Thatcher allowed him to make an ex gratia payment totalling £4 million to 15,000 Scottish pensioners.

Then the Scottish Conservative party conference in Aberdeen last month was overshadowed by reports of a plot among right-wing Scottish MPs, led by Bill Walker, to persuade

the prime minister to replace Mr Rifkind with Michael Forsyth, a Thatcherite junior minister who is better known in his other, more influential role, as chairman of the Scottish party.

He has since taken a fearful battering from right-wing English Tories over his criticism of British Steel's decision to shut the Ravenscraig strip mill and been censured by a Commons committee over his role in the abortive attempt to privatise the nuclear power industry.

Mr Rifkind has been caused the greatest grief, however, by the latest bill. His backbenchers are in open revolt over the ragbag measure which, among other things, threatens the ancient customs and practices of the Scottish legal profession, liberalises divorce law and makes changes to the law on charities and licensing hours.

His critics, led by Sir Nicholas Fairbairn, the former Scottish solicitor general, and including Mr Walker and Mr Allan Stewart, MP for Eastwood, are arguing that the Scottish secretary has left far too little time for the consideration in committee of such a complex series of measures. In addition, beneath their protestations of constitutional propriety lurk more sinister unspoken suggestions that Mr Rifkind has lost the confidence of his backbenchers and might be better off standing down from his office.

The conflict has already led to one great row at which the normally controlled and gentlemanly Scottish secretary clashed bitterly with Sir Nicholas. Afterwards it was being suggested that a more politically adroit figure such as Mr Younger would never have let this festering discontent erupt in such a way.

However, Mr Rifkind has since won the key votes establishing the committee's timetable, though not before dashing from a cabinet meeting to secure a one-vote victory amid more rumours, since discounted, of another resignation threat.

Senior cabinet colleagues are insisting that the Scottish secretary is not a quitter and that Mrs Thatcher, fearful of a further damaging upheaval among Scottish Tories, dare not sack him before the next election.

The next couple of weeks should see a brief lull in hostilities as the committee stages lumber forward. But with so little time at his disposal, it appears that Mr Rifkind will soon be faced with scrapping at least part of the legislation and calling on English Tories to impose a guillotine. This seems the only way of ensuring that something is salvaged.

The question remains whether unwieldy legislation is the only casualty of the pruning.

Malcolm Rifkind

Call for more diplomats

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

INCREASING resignations from the diplomatic service were damaging Britain's efforts to keep pace with the full administrative costs has been severely criticised by the Commons foreign affairs committee last yesterday.

Demand for extra staff in Europe, southern Africa and east Asia had made the staff shortages worse in other parts of the world. Since February, 60 extra officers had been taken on to deal with Eastern European issues, with a further 21 needed this year and probably 16 more in 1991-92.

The report said that this state of affairs had led to cuts of 8 per cent in missions in Africa and Latin America.

Sir Patrick Wright, the Foreign Office permanent secretary, said the diplomatic service was short of 190 staff at the end of last year.

The MPs said resignations from the diplomatic services continued to increase. That put extra work on the remaining staff so they could not be spared for training and language courses.

The report also urged the government to abolish visa requirements for all Eastern Europeans where Britain's policy of high visa charges to cover the full administrative costs has been severely criticised by the Commons foreign affairs committee last yesterday.

After the EC foreign affairs council in May, Britain, with other member states, agreed to lift visa requirements from East German citizens.

In a report on the Foreign Office's budget this year, the committee demanded more money for the BBC World Service. Poor pay was leading to staff leaving for private sector positions.

"We consider it essential that a competitive pay policy is put in place as soon as possible to prevent the hemorrhage of BBC-trained talent into the private sector."

FCO/QDA expenditure 1990/91: House of Commons foreign affairs committee 3rd report.

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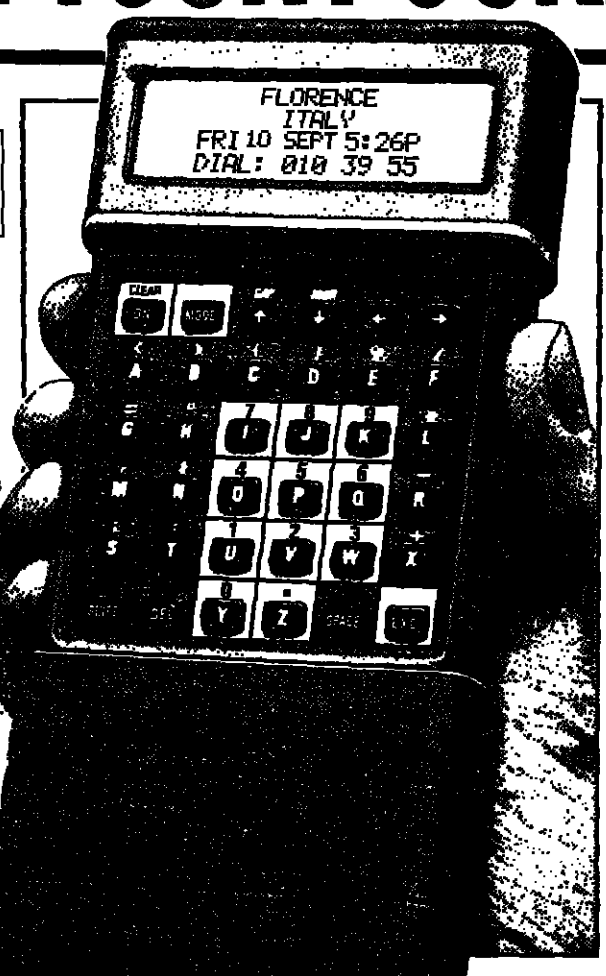
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Copen pact h as ri landn

A DECLARATION of intent to negotiate a peace agreement with the Irish Republican Army (IRA) was made by the Danish government in Copenhagen.

The Danish government said it was "willing to negotiate a peace agreement with the IRA" and that it was "not prepared to accept the IRA's demand for a ceasefire".

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Copenhagen pact hailed as rights landmark

By CHRISTOPHER FOLLETT IN COPENHAGEN AND ANDREW MC EWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

A DECLARATION guaranteeing the rights of citizens and committing governments to multi-party democracy was agreed by delegates at the 35-nation human rights conference in Copenhagen yesterday. Passages concerning the rights of national minorities and conscientious objectors were modified by a sub-group of four nations to overcome objections to an early draft. Their revision will be signed today, the last day of the conference.

The Foreign Office said the accord was the most far-reaching human rights document since the Helsinki declaration of 1975. Its effect will be to commit the Soviet Union and the whole of Eastern Europe except Albania to standards of democracy and human rights which

would have been unthinkable three years ago.

It will greatly strengthen the confidence of Nato in signing the Conventional Forces in Europe treaty with the Warsaw Pact this year. The West has always linked its willingness to reduce conventional forces to the East bloc's progress on human rights.

Changes in the draft declaration included weakening a commitment to let national minorities use their own languages in dealings with the authorities and in schools, meeting French concern over Bretons and Corsicans.

Passages on conscientious objection to military service were also diluted to take account of the continuing refusal of several countries, led by Greece, to consider such an option.

Experts worked until late on Wednesday night to satisfy the demands for changes from France and Greece by rewording the text.

An attempt to introduce measures strengthening mechanisms for monitoring human rights commitments was also effectively shelved, as were Danish proposals to abolish the death penalty in the nations of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe and set up a permanent committee of experts to monitor complaints of abuse.

"The events in East Europe meant there was no East-West confrontation here, as at previous CSCE conferences, and it has not been hard to agree on the main rule-of-law proposal," one West European expert said.

Several delegates said that the need for consensus had greatly reduced the strength of the final document's passages on minority rights, but the general feeling is that the Copenhagen final document will on balance be an important step forward in European human rights.

"The document constitutes in our opinion a milestone in the progressive achievement of a common understanding in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms," Helmut Tuerk, leader of the Austrian delegation, told the last plenary meeting of the conference. "The final document is truly revolutionary, it fully corresponds to the profound transformation of political realities in Europe which we have been witnessing over the past few months."

The conference, which brought together every European nation except Albania plus the United States and Canada, is part of the CSCE set up to monitor and follow up the 1975 East-West Helsinki accords.

The proceedings, which lasted three and a half weeks, followed an initial meeting in Paris last summer, which failed to achieve the necessary consensus on a final document. A third and final session is due to take place in Moscow in the autumn of 1991.

Diplomatic sources said the Copenhagen talks were conducted in a completely different atmosphere to previous rights negotiations.

There have been concerns that the Soviet Union has failed to keep promises to pass laws changing its system to guarantee the rule of law. However, the Copenhagen text will make it difficult for Moscow to continue procrastinating. It is not a treaty and is not legally binding, but all texts past by forums of the CSCE share this drawback. They have nonetheless proved extremely effective.



Polish farmers in Warsaw yesterday protesting against government austerity measures by blocking the agriculture ministry entrance and shutting the door on employees. There were scuffles with foreign businessmen

Gorbachev distress as victory of conservatives widens party rift

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

AS MEMBERS of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist party converged on Moscow to decide whether next week's 28th party congress should go ahead, reformists were deeply pessimistic about the course of the meeting and the future of the party.

President Gorbachev — whose reforms have precipitated the divisions in the party — was said to be distressed over the aggressively conservative mood of last week's Russian Communist party congress. A usually reliable source said yesterday that at a Politburo meeting last Monday Mr Gorbachev had suggested the postponement of next week's Soviet party congress.

At a Moscow press conference yesterday, Vyacheslav Shostakovskiy, a founding member of the reformist Democratic Platform, claimed that more than 20,000 party

members in Moscow had applied to leave the party after the election of Ivan Polozkov, a conservative, to head the new Russian party. The outcome of the Russian congress last week was, he said, "a great conservative coup".

Vladimir Lysenko, one of six candidates nominated to stand against Mr Polozkov last week, said Democratic Platform had hoped to change the party from within and transform it into a modern civilised party that would compete with other parties for parliamentary power. "Our attempt has not succeeded," he told the press conference.

The Russian party congress and the new version of the party rules, he said, had shown that the party was unable to reform itself, adding: "It is not prepared to withdraw from power and hand it back to the masses of party members."

Mr Shostakovskiy said the

only hope was that the outcome of the Russian party congress would so frighten the reformists they would surmount their present divisions. There was then a chance that the party could be turned in a reformist direction.

Mr Shostakovskiy hinted that, if Mr Gorbachev chose to make common cause with the reformists at the congress, rather than with the conservatives, the Democratic Platform would withdraw its opposition to his concurrent holding of the state and party leadership posts.

While Democratic Platform claims the support of about 40 per cent of party members throughout the Soviet Union and is strong in the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Baltic republics, it has barely touched the rest of the country and will have only a hundred of the nearly five thousand delegates at the congress. The

group claims that conservatives in high regional posts prevented their election as delegates.

The split between rank-and-file party members and delegates elected to the Russian and Soviet party congresses was additionally underlined yesterday as meetings continued at local level to oppose the conservative leadership of the new Russian party. A party meeting in Moscow heard Yegor Yakovlev, the reformist editor of *Moscow News*, predict that the coming congress would be even more conservative in tone than the Russian congress because of the presence of delegates from Central Asia. He accused conservatives of closing ranks in an attempt to remove reformists from the party.

For its part, Democratic Platform appealed to Communists across the country to unite against the new Russian party. Like many local party groups, it argues that the Russian conference had no authority to turn itself into a congress and form the new party. The delegates, it maintains, were mandated only to discuss the idea and make a recommendation. Democratic Platform therefore regards the proceedings, and the election of Mr Polozkov and a largely conservative central committee, as illegitimate.

The group's appeal accused the Russian party leadership of trying to deny ordinary party members the right to decide on forming a new party for themselves. It called on members to stop paying their party subscriptions and to set up an alternative party structure. One example of how seriously the party leadership regards the current haemorrhage of members was provided by an article in *Pravda* on Wednesday which looked for historical precedents and appealed to people not to panic. The article, signed by party veterans from the city of Smolensk, said that hundreds of thousands of people had left the party in 1921 and 1923 over Lenin's policy changes.

The closest parallel to the present, *Pravda* said, was the loss of 386,000 people in 1923 over the introduction of the New Economic Policy. But the party had been vindicated, the paper said, and recovered and had grown stronger through the loss of its more doubting and less active members.

According to recent figures, the party has lost more than 130,000 of its 19 million members in the first five months of this year, more than in the whole of 1989.

Ukraine re-election: Vitaliy Masol was re-elected prime minister of Ukraine, the Soviet Union's second largest republic, yesterday in the fourth round of voting after a vote fraud in an earlier round, the government daily *Izvestia* said.

The first two rounds at the Ukrainian parliament were cancelled because a quorum was not reached, but in the third round on Wednesday, a number of deputies not present left their voting cards to be used by colleagues. The paper said that the scandal was immediately made public as the session was televised live, and deputies leaving the parliament building were greeted by crowds chanting "shame".

Tass said that Mr Masol was elected after beating his rival, economist Vladimir Chernyak, by 229 votes to 134.

Both Bush and Democrats take big budget risk

FROM PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

IN THE corridors of Capitol Hill yesterday the language of "lies", "death" and "betrayal" lay thicker than in the pages of a Restoration tragedy. President Bush's abandonment of his campaign promise of "no new taxes" has loosened the elemental forces of politics in a way which Washington has not seen since the early years of the Reagan revolution.

At the moment the White House has decided to lie low before what one official called the "firestorm" of Republican protest. The president has relied only on diversions to help him — both his own new initiatives on Latin American aid and saving the spotted owl, and those of others, Nelson Mandela and Mayor Marion Barry.

Soon, however, Mr Bush may have to say something to the foot soldiers of the 1988 campaign about how and why he changed his mind about the issue which is closest to many of their hearts. According to Richard Viguerie, the influential right-wing activist, "yesterday George Bush said to the conservatives 'drop dead'".

"He has stabbed his fellow Republicans in the back, robbing them of the best issue they had — the tax-and-spend Democratic Congress. I think this assures a serious challenge to him from conservatives in 1992."

Malcolm Wallop, the senior Republican senator from Wyoming, said that he did not want to use the word "betrayal". But he said people felt that they were victims of some ill-conceived actions. "Whatever the intentions, this has been touted as 'Bush's big lie'."

The president hopes that he can delay responding to these charges. He is counting on the uproar dying down as Washington prepares for its long summer break. He also has to be wary of disturbing the delicate balance within the bipartisan budget summit from which his dramatic three-paragraph statement emerged on Monday.

If he or his aides try to reassure conservatives, they risk triggering political fight among the Democratic negotiators for whom spending cuts could be as politically damaging as new taxes are for the Republicans. The strong language is not coming exclusively from the right.

Some Democratic negotiators have proposed that \$3 billion (£1.72 billion) be saved

by a three-month delay in cost-of-living increases to be made in social security entitlements. To Dan Rostenkowski, chairman of the powerful ways and means committee, the political consequence of that for the Democrats would be "death".

Inside the budget summit room, where both sides have to face the reality of stripping \$50 billion from the soaring budget deficit, the atmosphere is businesslike and calm. Both sides know that, in order for them to continue their traditional political manoeuvring in safety, the economic stakes must be lowered. Otherwise, the political establishment of incumbent Democrats and Republicans is at risk, and most of those politicians could lose their jobs.

President Bush was born into the politics of congressional compromise and he has lived by that doctrine all his political life. He won the 1988 election, however, by temporarily mobilising the politicians who are not part of the establishment, the conservative groups who had propelled Ronald Reagan into the presidency and one of whose chief concerns was opposition to high federal taxes.

The aim of right-wing groups like that headed by Mr Viguerie is not one of preserving the power of the Washington politicians in the budget summit but weakening it. This is the legacy of US populist politicians who have campaigned against a government which spends their money. As Howard Phillips of the conservative caucus said this week: "Millions of Americans who voted Republican in 1988 can only conclude that they have become victims of an unprincipled presidential sting operation."

The Republicans have been successful in recent years in harnessing the power of their own fringe groups while portraying the Democrats as the party where the extremists are in the driving seat. But now, according to some Republican strategists, that could become much harder.

Both parties are finding that the popularity of their incumbents is declining. Recent elections in which members of the US Congress lost primary contests for other seats or only narrowly won their own re-nominations suggest some increasing disenchantment with Washington.

Quick turn to market in Romania

Bucharest — Petre Roman, the Romanian prime minister, yesterday surprised parliament by declaring that the new government would seek a radical, deep and speedy transformation from a centrally planned to a market economy (Tin Juhah writes).

In outlining the new policy, he called for the "liquidation of the inertia of the old system" and for a "true managerial revolution". He rejected cosmetic changes as they would only deepen the economic crisis and warned that "shocks" were unavoidable during this transformation. His speech surprised opposition members of parliament. Mr Roman also named a 23-member cabinet, comprised mainly of young technocrats.

Reform rally: Demanding faster economic reform, about 2,000 people staged a rally in the central Romanian city of Brasov. It was the biggest independent demonstration since miners attacked opponents of the government in Bucharest two weeks ago. (Reuter)

Holiday for Soviet children

Moscow — Thousands of Soviet schoolchildren will be airlifted from the Ukraine and Belorussia this summer in a 16-nation effort to provide young victims of the Chernobyl disaster with a holiday (Nicholas Beeston writes).

A total of 220 children will leave Minsk in two flights on July 21 and 28 for Britain, in an operation co-ordinated by Unesco, the world Scouts movement and the Soviet children's fund. Fifteen countries in Western Europe will receive 1,235 children and another 1,000 will be flown to Havana, including 24 to be treated for leukaemia in Cuban clinics.

Boy rescued in quake village

Tehran — A boy, aged nine, has been rescued alive from an earthquake-stricken village in northern Iran after being entombed with the bodies of his family.

Soviet relief workers pulled Morteza Amirpour from beneath the rubble of the flattened village of Rahmatabad six days and 18 hours after the quake struck. (Reuter)

Restructuring endeavours to recapture spirit of Lenin era

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE Soviet Communist party could have a new first secretary after the coming party congress, but this will not mean that President Gorbachev will have relinquished the party leadership. According to the final draft of the new party rules, the party will have both a first secretary and a party chairman.

In the new structure, the party chairman will oversee the party and have an unspecified number of deputies, while the first secretary will be limited to chairing the Central Committee secretariat.

The new draft of the party rules illustrates just how long a time three months is in Soviet politics. In March, the leadership had plans to replace the post of general secretary with the post of party chairman, abolish the Politburo, and abandon the *nomenklatura* lists for top appointments.

The new draft contains no word about the Politburo, but mentions a party praesidium, elected by the Central Com-

mittee and headed by the party chairman. The post of general secretary is revived as first secretary and, in what can only be a concession to the apparatus, the *nomenklatura* lists are reinstated.

Other differences illustrate new preoccupations. The language governing the autonomy of republic Communist party organisations is stronger, and the requirement that there should be a single all-Union party membership card has been dropped.

The stipulation that party membership confers no privileges has also been omitted and there is no longer any written guarantee that local party organisations will retain half of all subscription money received. Proposed increases in members' subscriptions are reduced and the requirement that the appointment of the *Pravda* editor be approved by the Central Committee has been dropped.

The emergence of diverse groupings within the party has been recognised in a clause which guarantees "platforms" the right to exist within the party. "Factions", however, deemed to differ in requiring organisation and discipline, are still banned.

The Central Committee secretariat will continue as a group of secretaries responsible for overseeing policy in specialist areas. The establishment of the post of first secretary means that the chairman of secretariat meetings and the chairman of the party are likely to be different people.

At a news conference on Wednesday, Vadim Medvedev, the party's ideology secretary, suggested that the post of general secretary might be abolished because the narrow and factional smacked too much of Stalin's dictatorship. The proposed structure seems designed in part to return the party to the predominantly policy-making function and structure it supposedly had in the time of Lenin.

Van Gogh thefts latest in long line as 'stealing to order' rises

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, ART MARKET CORRESPONDENT

YESTERDAY'S theft of three Van Gogh art works from a museum in The Netherlands is the latest in a line, British police say. In the last two weeks alone, there have been two minor art thefts from the West End of London, one a smash and grab, the other a break-in.

Art thefts to order are on the increase but no one knows who the perpetrators are: whether black market "dealers" who sell the works on to art fanciers, or "collectors" who derive a particular thrill from snatching works from under the noses of bona fide millionaires and revel in their possession.

"They are clearly people with a lot of money, who can afford to pay for this sort of operation," said Detective Sergeant Richard Ellis, of New Scotland Yard's art and antique squad. The best British parallel to the Van Gogh case was the attempted armed robbery at the Sir John Soane

museum in London three years ago. During the raid, the sole accomplice who knew the boss's identity was shot dead by police.

In The Netherlands the pattern is for thieves to demand ransoms. In Britain, however, where the Government will not consider ransom demands from terrorists, art thieves have not tried such ploys.

ROME: Thieves in Italy have made off with more than 245,000 works of art, and antique religious artefacts in the past 20 years, of which only about 117,000 have been recovered by the police (Paul Bompard writes).

The disclosure was made to parliament by Ferdinando Facchiano, the minister for cultural wealth, praising the Carabinieri, the paramilitary police, who in 1987, 1988 and 1989 succeeded in recovering 39,000 pieces. According to the minister's report, a response to a parliamentary

question on art crime prevention, most of Italy's art thefts are from churches and items taken include old paintings, sculptures and furnishings.

Italy has, according to Unesco estimates, 40 per cent of the world's artistic and historical treasures, yet only 0.25 per cent of the state's budget is dedicated to the upkeep of this heritage.

The recovery of 39,000 pieces in the past five years indicates there has been some improvement. Yet only a few months ago thieves in Hercules, near Pompeii, made off with more than 200 priceless bronzes and gold and silver artefacts dating from the first century. Last week, for example, a painting was stolen from a church in Venice. The work was recovered, but its theft is a measure of the ease with which priceless works can disappear.



Stolen Van Gogh: "Sitting Farmer's Wife"

Serb opposition fears 'rigged' referendum

FROM DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

SERBIA'S opposition has reacted strongly to the unexpected decision of Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president, to call a national referendum on the new constitution before a proper multi-party election is held.

The president's hurried decision is to be put into effect on Sunday and Monday, when six million Serbs will vote on the new constitution at a time when there is growing evidence that he and his communists are rapidly losing support to the more radical nationalists. The equally radical anti-communists are also gaining ground throughout Serbia.

Vuk Draskovic, a novelist and leader of the Serbian Renewal Movement, told a press conference, called to demand that the opposition be given access to the mass media on the eve of the referendum, that the decision to hold it was a fraud.

He and the representatives of four other opposition parties were convinced that the

referendum would be rigged. "There is no independent observer or control... This will be yet another race with one horse and one jockey," Mr Draskovic said.

The opposition believes a multi-party election ought first to be held and that the new parliament should draft the new constitution. Mr Milosevic, sure that the opposition is still too weak, disorganised and starved of cash to make much of an impact, especially since it is denied access to television, has clearly decided that the time is ripe to rush through a new constitution.

In announcing the referendum last week he also warned that Serbia, Yugoslavia's largest republic, would declare independence and seek an extension of its present boundaries should Yugoslavia's federal system be transformed into a confederal union. Slovenia and Croatia are already firmly committed to a looser Yugoslav confederation.

ABBEY NATIONAL INTEREST RATES

New Interest Rates

INVESTMENTS
With effect from 1st July, 1990 the rates of interest payable on the following accounts will be as indicated until further notice.

OTHER ACCOUNTS
Interest rates on accounts other than those listed are available on request.

	Net Rate % p.a.
SAVER	6.75
SEVEN DAY ACCOUNT	5.10
BOND SHARES	
Open Bond: 5 Year Term	4.25
High Yield: 44b Issue	7.75
High Yield: 44b Issue	4.25
Forty Plus	6.75
Share Plan: 1st Issue	4.25
Gift: 44b: Annual Interest	18.00
Gift: 44b: Monthly Interest	9.75

OPTIMUM BOND
The existing 12.50% net annual interest rate will be maintained for the Optimum Bond, an increase to 5.50% above our variable Saver Account net rate.

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Relentless rebel pincers close around Mengistu's overstretched army

FROM CARSON BLACK
IN ASMARA, ETHIOPIA

THREE soldiers carried a man into the ward, blood dripping from an open wound on his leg. He was also a soldier, wounded in the fighting around the Ethiopian port of Massawa on the Red Sea coast ten days before. Anxious to get back to the front line, he had underestimated the damage to his leg and had walked on it too soon. He was in agony as doctors worked to stop the bleeding.

The soldier was one of 200 in a ward of 350 beds in a well-equipped field hospital in the garrison town of Asmara, the capital of Eritrea, but now the only part of the province held by the Ethiopian Army. Just 25 miles away the rebel Eritrean Liberation Front army (EPLF) was pushing back the beleaguered forces of President Mengistu.

"He will be back at the front line within three weeks," said Brigadier-General Gage Ojo, the Ethiopian Army's most senior surgeon. "Like all

the men in this ward, they will be returned to the front line when they are fit. Some of the men have been here three or four times."

There are two army field hospitals set up to deal with the casualties of the war, now in its 30th year. In one there are three wards of 350 beds each to deal with the light wounded. Two other wards deal with the severe casualties and amputees.

This has been called the bloodiest battleground on Earth, likened by many to the trenches of the first world war. When the Eritrean Liberation Front captured Massawa from government troops in February, cutting a vital sea supply line to the Ethiopian army, it was reported there were 30,000 government casualties.

Asmara, about 35 miles inland, is deceptively peaceful. Its wide boulevards lined with bougainvilleas and clean streets give a false calm. Asmara is now surrounded by the rebel army. The only lifeline to the 120,000 government troops based here is a daily airlift to the

local airport, now controlled by the military which has commandeered transport aircraft from the civilian Ethiopian Airlines to fly in supplies.

As the rebels close in on the town, the airfield is in danger of falling. That would be the end to President Mengistu's attempts to keep Ethiopia united. Without it and the lifeline of supplies for the army, Asmara would fall and Eritrea would be controlled by the Eritrean Liberation Front, formerly a hardline communist grouping which has recently pledged itself to democracy.

Compounding Colonel Mengistu's military problems is the province just south of Eritrea. Virtually all of Tigré is controlled by another rebel group, the Tigré Liberation Front (TLF), even more left-wing than the Eritreans. Their aims and values are different but they have formed a pact to oust Colonel Mengistu. Now they are mounting an assault on their front lines, stretching the Ethiopian Army's resources. The Tigreans consolidated their grip on

much of northern Ethiopia by capturing parts of neighbouring Gondar and Wollo and sending squads to within 60 miles of the capital, Addis Ababa. That has shaken Colonel Mengistu.

The combined efforts of the two rebel armies is said to have the Mengistu forces demoralised and unwilling to continue fighting. They want peace and quickly. On paper the rebels should not stand a chance. Colonel Mengistu's forces outnumber them two to one and they have overwhelming military superiority on the ground and in the air. But numbers and firepower can mean nothing against a skilled and determined guerrilla force with the backing of a large number of the local populace.

Colonel Mengistu said he will fight for 100 years to keep Ethiopia united. His sentiments were backed by the troops of his Second Revolutionary Army in Asmara. Commanding Officer Major-General Iyabishit Dessie said: "We have many Eritreans in our army. They do not want to see Ethiopia divided. It is

wrong to say it is the Eritreans against the Ethiopians. It is a bunch of rebel Eritreans who for their own reasons want to divide our great country."

The 2nd Brigade of the 44/46 Battalions, about 2,000 men and allegedly the Ethiopian Army's crack troops, sat on a hillside about six miles outside Asmara. They had been training there for weeks. General Dessie admitted an assault to retake Massawa was planned but would not say when, probably within three months. "That is our mission," he said. "There is no choice. Without Massawa it would be very difficult to even sustain the unity of our country."

There were lines of Soviet-made T55 tanks. Here, too, is another problem for the Ethiopians. President Gorbachev has said he will not renew his country's five-year agreement to give the Mengistu regime military and financial aid, after more than 10 years of patronage. The agreement expires at the end of this year. ● ADDIS ABABA: Ethiopia's beleaguered government has announced

that it will consider ceasefire proposals by a Tigré-led rebel alliance if they withdraw support for secessionist rebels in Eritrea. In an apparent attempt to drive a wedge between the country's two main rebel groups, the government set out its conditions for talks in a statement published in the press here yesterday.

The government said it would consider the ceasefire proposed on Sunday by the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), an alliance led by the Tigré People's Liberation Front, if the Tigreans withdrew support for the secessionist Eritrean People's Liberation Front.

The EPRDF has offered to negotiate an immediate ceasefire if the government stepped down in favour of a caretaker coalition administration.

The statement by the State Council, the highest government body, said Addis Ababa was ready to allow any opposition group which truly accepts the unity of the country to participate in the political life of the nation.

Hopes die in Sri Lanka's killing ground

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN KARADIVANARU, SRI LANKA

WITH large parts of the country now little more than a free fire zone for the government's armed forces, Sri Lanka appears to be heading into a protracted and particularly brutal new war.

Parts of the north and east are becoming a killing ground, with helicopter gunships opening up on any vehicle that moves. One foreign military analyst said "It is also going to be a bloody one, because neither side can score a real knockout blow against the other."

Most Sri Lankans are bitterly disheartened by the turn of events. The renewed fighting has ended more than a year of truce and the talks between the government and the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) on the issue of greater autonomy for the Tamils.

Now few Tiger fighters even think of surrender. "We fight to the end but, if captured, we take this," one Tiger fighter said here, holding up a glass cyanide capsule.

Perhaps as many as 1,000 policemen are still missing after being ordered to surrender when the Tigers attacked 22 police stations this month. "We think most of them are dead," a senior police officer in the eastern district town of Ampara said.

Civilians in both the majority Buddhist Sinhalese and the minority Hindu Tamil communities are becoming caught in the crossfire.

In fighting around villages like this one east of Batticaloa, where this correspondent saw panicky Tamils fleeing with their children and their personal possessions, civilians are also dying.

In Colombo, where food prices are shooting up, thousands of young men responding to a radio appeal are lining up to volunteer to fight. Some said they wanted to join up to defend the country against the Tigers. Others said that they were volunteering because they had no jobs.

Diplomats here say that a long-drawn-out struggle would increasingly damage the Sri Lankan economy, leading to even more large-scale unemployment among Sri Lanka's educated young people.

President Premadasa said he had not renounced efforts to find a solution through discussion. "But we cannot remain passive after they (the LTTE) bite the hand of friendship."

Diplomats say that the government would only negotiate if the Tamils agreed to lay down their arms, which is

unlikely. Military analysts believe that the much-improved Sri Lankan armed forces are not about to stop fighting the Tigers when they think they are presently at an advantage, especially in the east.

For their part, the Tigers are withdrawing into the tropical forests from where they can, as in the past, launch hit-and-run attacks, mine roads and blow up bridges.

Most Sinhalese, Muslims and even some of the Tamils feel that the Tigers acted in bad faith by launching attacks when they had been talking to the government about participating in local elections.

President Premadasa had promised polling in the north and east.

When the elections were postponed, the Tigers accused him of not being sincere and said the government had been secretly planning to restart the war.

But the president has been praised for trying to end Sri Lanka's bitter communal strife which stemmed from earlier job and education policies for the Tamils, now seen as discriminatory.

Envoys say activities of death squads linked to the police and certain high officials are now much reduced.

● COLOMBO: Ranjan Wijeratne, the Sri Lankan defence minister, admitted yesterday that air force helicopter gunships hit "unintended targets" in the battle against Tamil Tiger rebels in the northern capital of Jaffna (Vijitha Yapa writes). There have been reports of civilian casualties caused by firing from helicopters but no details are available due to poor communication links.

A defence ministry communiqué yesterday said "the security forces succeeded in attacking several mortar and rocket launching points around the Jaffna fort from the air. These attacks triggered off explosions in several places."

Mr Wijeratne said that the siege by the Tigers of the 17th-century Dutch fort in Jaffna, where over 200 security personnel have been holding out with little supplies of food and medicine, is continuing. Helicopter gunships have been pounding Tiger bunkers around the Fort for the last four days in an attempt to land helicopters to evacuate the injured and rush in food and medicine.

Most Eastern province towns are held by the security forces, but the government is distributing food to over 100,000 refugees in the north-west of the country.



Masked gunmen in Manila firing yesterday on the funeral procession of Benjamin Tabuena, a communist guerrilla killed last week, leaving a mourner and one pallbearer dead

Israeli peace vow sidesteps Baker plan

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S right-wing coalition yesterday assured the United States that it wished to continue to co-operate with Washington in the search for a formula for dialogue with the Palestinians. It did so, however, in terms which effectively rejected the Middle East peace plan being promoted by James Baker, the US Secretary of State.

The coalition, formed three weeks ago under Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, took over from the Likud-Labour "national unity" coalition which collapsed on March 15 over the question of whether to accept Mr Baker's terms for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo. It had governed the country for 18 months. The Likud-Labour coalition, also led by Mr Shamir, had accepted the Baker proposals in principle but was unable to agree over details.

Yesterday Mr Shamir, in the first formal communication between the new Israeli administration and Washington, conveyed a message to President Bush emphasising that Israel was interested in a peace settlement. At the same time the prime minister tried to shift the focus from the Palestinian issue to the wider question of a comprehensive peace between Israel and the Arab states in general.

Mr Shamir told Mr Bush that the heart of the Middle East conflict was not the Palestinian question, despite two and a half years of the intifada, but the refusal of the Arab countries to recognise Israel.

Mr Shamir said in his message that Israel was opposed to the inclusion in any Palestinian peace talks delegation of Arabs deported from

the West Bank or the Gaza Strip. Equally, Israel could not agree to the participation of east Jerusalem Arabs in any future Palestinian elections.

Both points are central to the Baker plan but are regarded with deep suspicion by Israeli officials, who see it as an attempt to admit the Palestine Liberation Organisation to the talks by the back door. Both Palestinians deported from the occupied territories and the Palestinian leadership in east Jerusalem are likely to be sympathetic to, or even members of, the PLO.

Mr Shamir proposed an alternative approach under which Israel and the United States would seek to draw up a Palestinian delegation on the basis of individual names. He said this week that he re-

mained convinced that there were local Palestinian leaders on the West Bank and in Gaza who would be willing to negotiate with Israel if they were not intimidated or terrorised by the PLO.

The prime minister also assured Mr Bush that Israel had no policy of directing Soviet Jewish immigrants to the occupied territories. Jewish settlements, he said, were not in any case an obstacle to peace as America claimed.

Diplomats said the Palestinian fear was that the Jewish settlements would be populated not by Soviet immigrants but by right-wing Israelis encouraged by hardliners in the Israeli government such as Ariel Sharon, the housing minister.

Haaretz this week pub-

lished the findings of a survey showing that the number of Jewish settlers on the West Bank and in Gaza has already risen from 70,000 to 88,000. The newspaper forecast that the number would rise to 95,000 by next September.

Haaretz pointed out that, although Mr Sharon had undertaken not to build housing for Soviet Jews in the occupied territories, the government was doing nothing to prevent private developers from doing so.

Settlement figures, moreover, do not include east Jerusalem, which was annexed by Israel after the 1967 Middle East War. Yesterday Palestinians in the occupied territories staged a strike on the anniversary of the annexation, with the intifada leader-

ship claiming that east Jerusalem should be the capital of a Palestinian state.

● WASHINGTON: David O'Byrne, the Republican chairman of the House of Representatives foreign aid subcommittee, said he would effectively in charge of US foreign aid allocations, is warning Israel that he will support a reduction in its share of aid next year if it expands the Jewish settlements on the occupied West Bank and in the Gaza Strip.

"If Israel expands their settlements in any way, or if they add a single new settlement, I will make a flat commitment to support any request made by the administration to reduce aid to Israel in next year's bill," he said. (AP)

Spanish colonel shot dead

Madrid - A retired army colonel was shot dead yesterday in San Sebastian. The killing came after two days of violent disturbances in the north over the alleged suicides of Basque extremists in Pamplona (Harry Debelius writes). In the controversial deaths earlier this week a Civil Guard sergeant and two members of the Basque Euzkadi movement died, and a policeman and a suspected terrorist were wounded. José Luis Corcuera, the interior minister, suggested the Euzkadi activists committed suicide. His explanation was met with scepticism in the Basque region.

41 executed

Peking - Forty-one people were executed in Canton, according to Chinese media reports. A local radio said the executions were part of a big crackdown on serious crime.

Aquino shock

Manila - President Aquino of the Philippines said she was shocked by the US decision to recall its Peace Corps workers for fear of communist attacks. Washington also announced it was cutting back its military forces here as part of a global restructuring. (Reuter)

Strike violence

Dhaka - More than 200 people were injured and over 100 arrested as a general strike triggered violence in the Bangladesh capital and nine other cities.

Party leader

Kabul - President Najibullah of Afghanistan was elected head of the ruling party for another four years. (APF)

Clerk sentenced

Lille - A French court clerk was given a suspended jail sentence for stealing Charles De Gaulle's birth certificate from the office where she worked. (AP)

Sea survivor

Sydney - A lone woman sailor, Claudine Pare, has been washed up on a Papua New Guinea island after surviving 20 days adrift in a life raft. (Reuter)

Kashmir lull

Delhi - A ceasefire was announced by the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, the main separatist group fighting Indian control of two-thirds of Kashmir. (AFP)

Rape charge

Moscow - Five Soviet policemen have been arrested on charges of raping and murdering a mother of six in the Ukrainian mining city of Makayevka. (AP)

Caught clerk

Lille - A French court clerk was given a suspended jail sentence for stealing Charles De Gaulle's birth certificate from the office where she worked. (AP)

Eight-day Cyprus president returns home to a prison cell

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

NICOS Sampson, once a national hero in Cyprus for fighting the British in the struggle for independence and later the villain when he served as president for eight days after a disastrous coup in 1974 which led to the Turkish invasion, has made a dramatic return after 11 years of exile.

Returning to Cyprus late on Wednesday night, Sampson, aged 54, barely had time to kiss the ground at Larnaca airport before a hefty police escort took him to Nicosia central prison.

A government source said it was made clear to Sampson before his return from France that he would have to complete his prison term for overthrowing the government

of the late Archbishop Makarios. After remissions, he still has at least ten years of a 20-year sentence to serve. Sampson's lawyers said he would appeal on the ground that his exile should be included as part of his sentence, in which case, with remissions, his term ends this year.

"There is no question of a pardon," said a source close to President Vassiliou. "His return will bring back awful memories of 1974 and if he is let out soon, Denktas (the Turkish Cypriot leader) could get a lot of propaganda mileage."

When the colonels then ruling Greece backed a right-wing coup in Nicosia in July

1974, Sampson was chosen to be president. He stepped down eight days later after the coup had triggered the Turkish invasion, earning him the nickname the "eight-day president".

He was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment in August 1976 for military action against the republic of Cyprus, but sought political asylum in France.

Between 1955 and 1960 he was one of the most feared fighters in the Greek Cypriot EOKA underground movement, and in 1957 a British court sentenced him to death for the murder of a British soldier. He was granted an amnesty in 1960 when Cyprus won independence.

Tussle for dead man's millions

FROM LOUISE BYRNE
IN RIO DE JANEIRO

ANTONIO Luciano Pereira Filho, a multi-millionaire who died this month, was buried in the presence of 60 people. The silent group at the cemetery included his three legitimate sons, his two illegitimate sons, and probably some of the 44 men, women and children who are now also claiming to be his offspring.

In a legal battle which could go on for years, the local justice department in the Brazilian city of Belo Horizonte is facing claims to a share in the inheritance left by Pereira Filho, estimated to be as much as \$3 billion (£1.7 billion).

A businessman, who owned vast tracts of land in five Brazilian states, Pereira Filho was only married once, to Clara Luciano with whom he had three sons before separating in 1954.

His reputation as a womaniser was well-known and two more sons were later born and legally recognised as his.

Other famous liaisons were with two sisters by whom, it is claimed, he had two sons, now aged 30 and 33. Pereira Filho, aged 78 when he died, left his fortune in more than four million hectares of land divided into 256 ranches. He also owned houses, office blocks, 11 aeroplanes, nine cinemas, a distillery, a cloth factory, mines, petrol stations and engineering companies. If all of his alleged 49 children received equal inheritance from his fortune, it is estimated they would each receive up to \$60 million.

Just days before he died of cancer, 18 of Pereira Filho's children and alleged children signed an accord which guaranteed more than half of the inheritance for his three legitimate children and divided the rest equally between the others. However, the will, in which he left most of his money to his first three sons, is likely to be contested for many years by children who range in age from 10 to 49.

TOKYO NOTEBOOK by Joe Joseph

Swotting up on the divine path to royal ascent

It can be tricky enough marrying into blue blood. But how does a commoner, daughter of an economics don and granddaughter of the local masseur, prepare to spend the rest of her life with someone who is directly descended from the sun goddess Amaterasu?

Even with the pillorying the Duchess of York has received now and then from the British press, it has probably been easier for her to become royal than it will be for Kiko Kawashima, the chirpy post-graduate psychology student who today marries Prince Aya, second in line to the Japanese throne.

Since their engagement was formally sealed in January, when Aya sent an envoy bearing sake, a pair of sea bream and bolts of silk to the modest Tokyo home of his university sweetheart, Miss Kawashima has been in training to become a Japanese princess.

The imperial family has friendly links with Buckingham Palace and sees the British royal family as models for a modern monarchy. But Miss Kawashima's cramming has been more gruelling than, for instance, the informal guidance the Princess of Wales received at the Queen Mother's elbow at Clarence

House after her engagement was announced.

Miss Kawashima, thrust into the hands of ancient imperial courtiers, has become an expert on Japanese court ceremonies, royal etiquette, Japanese history and the constitution. Calligraphy and cooking, important talents for refined Japanese women, were also

family for presentation to the emperor at new year. Most important, she has discovered what it is about her husband-to-be's ancestry that makes him divine, a belief that persists within the palace most despite General MacArthur's efforts to, as he put it, "de-god" Hirohito after the second world war.

Miss Kawashima, aged 23, who was wooed discreetly by the prince for five years while she studied psychology at Tokyo's elite Gakushuin University, where the couple met, has already adapted to her new role. When she and Aya, aged 24, disclosed their marriage plans last August (the formal betrothal was delayed until the year's mourning for Hirohito had ended), she gaily told friends that she "would like to spend my life as a normal student as much as possible. I would like to make our relationship sweet and spicy forever, like hot Thai food."

Receiving Aya's envoy in January for the formal engagement, she piled her hair into a style out of an old Japanese woodcut and primly told reporters: "I would like to learn

from the emperor and empress and will walk under the guidance of Prince Aya and other members of the imperial family to fulfil my duties." Her admirers fear that it may not be long before her smile gives way to the drawn expression of Empress Michiko, her mother-in-law, who got a frigid welcome from Hirohito's stuffy chamberlains when she became the first commoner to be grafted into the ancient goddess's family tree in 1959. It is whispered that Michiko suffered a nervous breakdown under the strain.

The imperial wedding today will be the biggest here for 31 years and will dominate the television schedules for most of the day, even though the ceremony itself takes less time than an episode of a soap opera. At 10am the couple enter a sacred shrine inside the imperial palace and drink some sake in a ceremony officiated by a court priest. Miss Kawashima, who used to wear jeans and a T-shirt until newspaper photographers started tailing her, will be in a 12-layered ceremonial silk kimono of the sort worn in the court for 1,000 years. Copies have become fashionable for chic Tokyo brides.

A pizza parlour which was favoured by Kiko and Aya in their student days reports business up by nearly one-third. A marine park where Aya introduced his bride-to-be to his parents has become a shrine for lovebirds, who order in the aquarium's restaurant what "they" had (seafood curry for Kiko, curry with meat cutlet for Aya).

A café near their university has set up a very subtle "royal corner". The proprietor now sells 400 of the prince's favourite cream pastries every day.



Kiko Kawashima: wooed by the prince for five years at university on the curriculum. She has learnt to write waka poems, the medieval precursor of the snappier 17-syllable haiku and a form now only used by members of the royal

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things I have ever done
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lawyer is Leonardo Fer-

Kaunda tours riot-hit area as Lusaka curfew ends

From JAN RAATH IN LUSAKA

THE heavy hand of the Zambian security forces appeared to have regained control of a desperate situation yesterday, and normality began to return to the capital and other areas.

The authorities lifted a 36-hour curfew over Lusaka and taxis, fuel stations and some offices resumed business. But street trading was limited to the ragged cigarette-sellers in their wheelchairs.

President Kaunda said meanwhile that he would today disclose a date for a referendum on whether the country should restore multi-party democracy, which ended in 1972.

In Cairo Road, which had been sealed off since rioting broke out on Monday, shop owners, mostly Asians, kicked through broken glass outside ransacked shops. Troops in combat kit glowered at passers-by.

"We called the police but they came very late," said Joseph Chacko, the proprietor of Zambia's largest pharmacy. The burglar bars in front of his smashed windows had failed to deter looters, who used sticks to hook goods through.

President Kaunda, followed by a vast entourage of civil servants and security men, toured the shops, sternly flicking his traditional white handkerchief.

The security forces ringed the slums around Lusaka where incidents of stoning and looting were reported to have diminished. Students at the University of Zambia hung banners on the perimeter fence, calling for the presi-

dent's resignation or his death. The local press has ignored signs that the unprecedented violence has an overt political tone, referring to "food riots". It has yet to record the fact that on Tuesday the Chilenje national monument, the township house from where President Kaunda led the independence movement, was burnt by mobs.

On Wednesday, President Kaunda appeared on television and, contrary to expectations in the compounds, stated that the last week's doubling of the maize meal price would stand, as would the National Economic Recovery Programme.

A businesswoman said: "In 1986 they threw stones because food prices went up and in five hours Kaunda restored them to what they were before. Most people expected him to do it again, but he can't. It would be total disaster."

Zambia's debt of \$7.2 billion (\$4.5 billion) is the fourth highest in Africa. It has borrowed more money from the International Monetary Fund than any other African country. It has arrears on repayments of \$3.8 billion while the population is growing at 3.5 per cent annually.

● **NAIROBI:** Four executive journalists of The Standard group of newspapers were arrested in their offices by police yesterday, colleagues said. The journalists were named as Francis Githui, Mitch Odero, Francis Mwaniki and James Kimondo.

Leading article, page 11

Nasa enquiry into Hubble failure

From PETER STOTHARD
US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

AN OFFICIAL enquiry is to begin this week into the failure of the mirrors on the Hubble space telescope, a fault which for several years will leave the world's most expensive astronomical device crippled.

The \$2 billion (£1.14 billion) Hubble, which is scheduled to cost at least \$8 billion to run over its decade-long lifetime in space, was designed to see light from close to the beginning of time. But, as Nasa officials admitted on Tuesday, its light-gathering mirror system, said to be the "most precise ever built", contained an error which will prevent it performing better than ground-based telescopes.

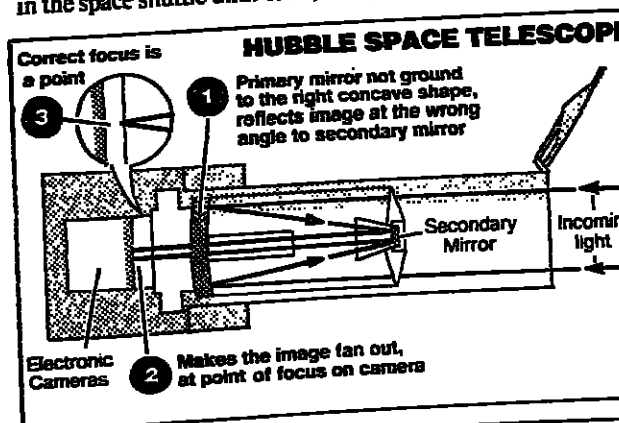
An independent review has been launched into this serious embarrassment to Nasa. Even if, as scientists claim, the fault can be rectified by calibrating a new camera to fit a wrongly shaped mirror, the incident will be a blow to an organisation which is always under political pressure to spend less and produce more. The new camera will not be able to be taken to the Hubble in the space shuttle until 1993,

officials predicted. The manufacturers of the mirrors, the Hughes Danbury subsidiary of General Motors, said it was not yet prepared to accept responsibility. "An enquiry is under way," a spokesman said. "Nobody knows what went wrong."

The fault could be in the main mirror, the secondary mirror, or in the way that the two worked together, the spokesman said. To have tested the mirrors on the ground before launch would have cost more than \$100 million and was ruled out because of tight budgets.

The Hubble was launched in April to claims from Nasa that it would revolutionise understanding of the universe, registering light that had been travelling through space for 15 billion years — the time close to the "big bang" with which, according to currently prevailing theories, the universe began.

● **PARIS:** Ariane rocket launches, suspended on February 23 after the failure of the thirty-sixth, will resume on July 24. (AFP)



Florence ordure order puts wraps on horses

From PAUL BOMPARD IN ROME

AUTHORITIES in Florence have decreed that all horses within municipal limits must wear underwear to prevent fouling of the narrow streets which at this time of the year are hot and overcrowded.

The ordinance will affect 19 horsedrawn carriages, known as *fiacchere*, which are still popular with tourists and newswriters. These are the only horses permitted to enter the city, in addition to six that belong to the police and another six used by the local Carabinieri, the paramilitary police.

"The smell of horse manure is a smell of the countryside," a disgruntled coachman said. "It is a romantic smell of the past, and certainly better than the stench of car exhausts."

One *fiaccherista* told an Italian newspaper: "Just think how ugly the horses will look wearing nappies full of muck as they take a group of tourists around town."

The butt of much of the humour produced by the sappy law is Lorenzo Fer-

racci, the city alderman for finance and a former president of the municipal refuse collection authority, who pushed the ordinance through the city council.

"This is simply a hygiene measure," Signor Ferracci said, "and I believe it is necessary to keep the city clean and free of bad smells. In any case, the horses will not wear nappies, as some people have been suggesting. There will simply be a piece of canvas held against the horse's hindquarters by laces tied to the harness and sloping back towards a sack tied to the front of the carriage. The driver will periodically empty the sack into a plastic bag which, sealed, he can then drop into a rubbish bin."

Signor Ferracci added that he loved horses and would not suggest anything that would cause them discomfort. He said: "I own a horse myself, and have designed this equipment so that the horse is completely free in its movements."



A pilot being dragged from a blazing helicopter, one of two carrying journalists which collided on take-off from the village of San Pedro de Lavago in Nicaragua. The helicopters were returning to Managua, the capital, on Wednesday from a ceremony at which Contra rebel commanders handed over their weapons to

President Chamorro (AP reports from Managua). A witness said several people were badly injured in the crash. Ernesto Mejia, a press photographer who had been on the helicopter which caught fire, said: "In all the years I've covered the war, I've never felt so close to death. It seemed unreal, to end the war almost dying." Unofficial reports

said at least 14 people had been taken to hospital, but the presidential press office said the authorities were still compiling a list of the injured. Señor Mejia said 24 journalists had been in the helicopters when they collided. "When we reached an altitude of about 45 ft the nose of our helicopter dropped and we hit the other M117 as

it was taking off," he said. "We felt a terrible impact and then we were on the ground, some of our comrades crying. After getting out as best we could, we saw that the other helicopter had fallen about 200 meters away." He was one of nine reporters and photographers in one helicopter, and 15 were in the second.

Peace accord optimism in ANC

From GAVIN BELL
IN JOHANNESBURG

JOE Slovo, leader of the South African Communist Party, has expressed qualified optimism about the chances of a ceasefire agreement being reached soon between the government and the African National Congress.

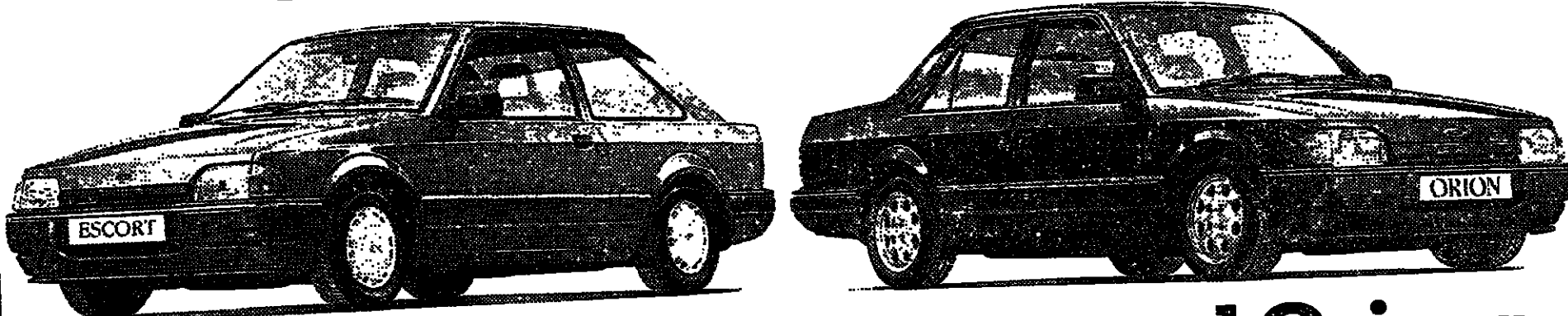
Mr Slovo, the highest-ranking white member of the ANC, said that a formal peace accord would be considered after the issue of an estimated 20,000 exiles and the release of 3,000 political prisoners had been resolved.

He also envisaged swift progress in subsequent negotiations on a post-apartheid constitution. "I believe we are going to have in the not too distant future some kind of political democracy," he said.

● **HARARE:** The Zimbabwean parliament yesterday voted overwhelmingly for changes in the constitution which will allow the government to rescind legislation which makes one-party rule legally impossible at the moment (writes Michael Hartnack).

The vote also paved the way for nationalisation of white-owned farming land for resettlement by overcrowded or landless peasants.

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36 Monthly Payments of	£147.36	£198.47	£213.63	£270.46
Charge for Credit	£909.76	£1225.47	£1318.98	£1669.76
Total Credit Price	£7469.76	£10060.47	£10828.98	£13709.76
7.9% (APR 15.1%)				
Initial Payment (Min 30%)	£1312.00	£1767.00	£1902.00	£2408.00
48 Monthly Payments of	£143.88	£193.78	£208.59	£254.08
Charge for Credit	£1558.24	£2233.44	£2404.32	£3043.84
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Springtime for Plato

Philip Howard

This is not quite a paradox, but it is a jolly rum do. Here is Oxford University about to appeal for £4 million to build a classics centre behind the Ashmolean. There is Cambridge University inaugurating its first classics building last week. You would have thought they would have had such buildings centuries ago. They have been teaching classics at our two oldest universities for eight centuries, and for much of the time nothing but classics, in its various departments of grammar, logic, rhetoric, theology and law. Until quite recently, you could not even get into them without knowing a bit of Latin and Greek. The medieval history of Oxford and Cambridge is turgid with bachelors and friars engaged in testing intellectual activities such as *responsiones* and *sophismata*. Because of the haphazard, collegiate way that the two universities just grew, they needed little in the way of central university buildings until now. As the Oxford professor showing guests around Cambridge said: "And now for the university as a whole - and what a (whole) it is."

And here is another rumness that is even closer to a proper paradox. The new English national curriculum in practice leaves no room for the study of classics, at a time when the rest of the world is seeing the merit of returning to the subject. There are now more teachers of Plato and Aristotle in Japan than there are in the United Kingdom. When asked to explain this Japanese enthusiasm for ancient Western philosophy, a Japanese professor replied: "Greece and Rome are the foundation of Western civilisation. Those who wish to understand Western civilisation must study them." At the inauguration of the Cambridge classics building, Professor Myles Burnyeat gave a stirring address about the revival of classics around the world. His text is available free from the Faculty of Classics.

One of the marvellous signs of the breaking-up of the ideological pack-ice in Eastern Europe is the return of the study of the classics. There has recently been published in Moscow a bilingual version of the *Phaedrus*, Plato's dialogue on the topic of rhetoric, distinguishing propaganda designed to deceive (of which Soviet audiences have had a bellyful for the past 70 years) from the true rhetoric based on dialectic and truth. The translator writes in his foreword: "Rejoice with me at the very possibility of the appearance of this translation." There is more to the study of classics than the conjugation of the verbs in *mi* means the whole study of man, which is the proper study of mankind. This is why Oxford still calls its school of classics and philosophy *Literae Humaniores*, the more humane studies.

What glaston means literally is the fact of being public; openness to public scrutiny or discussion. I cannot find a classical root there, but it must have some cognates in the great Indo-European language tribe. The word is recorded in Russian dictionaries from the 18th century, but in the more general sense of publicity. Lenin, of all people, first used *glasnost* to mean freedom of information in the Soviet state. That was an example of the use of a Janus word to pull wool over eyes, exposed 24 centuries ago by Socrates and his friend Phaedrus on the pleasant banks of the Ilissus.

Glasnost was called for in an open letter to the Soviet Writers' Union by Alexander Solzhenitsyn in 1969. But it did not become a subject of serious public debate in the Soviet Union until an *Izvestia* editorial asked for letters on the subject on January 19, 1985. Mikhail Gorbachev used the word in his speech accepting the post of general secretary of the Communist party of the Soviet Union on March 11, 1985. And since then the word has become a shorthand political label for his policies. But there is more than "openness and candour in public affairs" in the potent little word. It means the freedom to speak and ask, to hear and publish whatever you want. It is one of the basic concepts of Western civilisation, introduced by Athenian democracy and Socrates, in spite of the fact that the former condemned the latter to death.

When communism tried to blot out history and remake the world from scratch, one of the first things it did was to shut up the humanist tradition of asking inconvenient questions, and stop the teaching of the classics. Now Moscow and Leningrad have announced that they are reopening their old gymnasia for teaching children Latin and Greek before university.

Gymnasium is an agreeably odd word from our common European heritage. The original Greek means a place for naked training. Then it came to mean a school for learning other things besides stripping and wrestling, for discussion as well as the discus. It came into Germany and the other continental countries to mean a school of the highest grade designed to prepare students for the universities, by teaching them the humane and liberal arts. It slipped into Russian more easily than into most languages, because Russian is the most important of the Slavonic languages, which originated in Greece. Here is Dr Johnson in characteristically building English chauvinist vein: "A Cambridge and Oxford surpass the gymnasia of foreign countries. This has not always been true, when you remember the great traditions of classical scholarship on the Continent. It is glorious news that the doors to the humanities and our common heritage are opening up again in the East."

...and moreover
ALAN COREN

Fifty-two? No age they said. Fifty-two? These days? No age? They said it all day Wednesday. Rang up dropped in brought presents, popped corks, filled the premises with cheery cards (albeit mainly about impotence and coffin), shouted through clouds of marzipan crumbs, what Gladstone did at 87, what Picasso did at 83, what Rubinstein did at 88.

Convinced me utterly. Despite what, after 50, has become the annual shock of seeing it written down, I did not feel what 52 sounded as if one should feel like. After tea, I went over to the club and played three sets without dying, and it was one of those good days when the Fate who handles the forty portfolio allows the ball to coincide with the racket more often than not, and you think, *Bring me I want Bring me Boris!* and you jog home feeling good, despite the little hiccups, trilling beside you to the effect that even if they were to bring you Fred Perry, you'd be going back on a stretcher.

And when what was lowered into the subsequent bath appeared to displace no more water than it had done when its digits were in reverse order, and when its glottis proved still competent to handle *Ol Man River* without a quiver at either end of the register, and when its teeth stood up to the Extra Hard without the hint of a wobble, and especially when it sloshed on its new skin bracer, taunting each incipient wrinkle to the sleekness of a snare-drum, could it not be forgiven for murmuring to itself: "52? No age!"

So I skipped downstairs, and I decanted lunch's dissimilar drops into a single tumbler with that nouchalance which springs from the conviction that 52 is no age for a liver, either, and I set about tearing wrappers from the rest of my presents with these amazingly youthful fingers I have, and oh what fun, someone had given me a video called *1938: A Year To Remember*. I put it on. It was a compilation of Pathe newsreels. Black and white, of course. No colour newsreels, then. And who is this, stepping out of a piston-engineered item at what the commentator, in his jovial cut-glass accent, tells me is an aero-

to public scrutiny or discussion. I cannot find a classical root there, but it must have some cognates in the great Indo-European language tribe. The word is recorded in Russian dictionaries from the 18th century, but in the more general sense of publicity. Lenin, of all people, first used *glasnost* to mean freedom of information in the Soviet state. That was an example of the use of a Janus word to pull wool over eyes, exposed 24 centuries ago by Socrates and his friend Phaedrus on the pleasant banks of the Ilissus.

Glasnost was called for in an open letter to the Soviet Writers' Union by Alexander Solzhenitsyn in 1969. But it did not become a subject of serious public debate in the Soviet Union until an *Izvestia* editorial asked for letters on the subject on January 19, 1985. Mikhail Gorbachev used the word in his speech accepting the post of general secretary of the Communist party of the Soviet Union on March 11, 1985. And since then the word has become a shorthand political label for his policies. But there is more than "openness and candour in public affairs" in the potent little word. It means the freedom to speak and ask, to hear and publish whatever you want. It is one of the basic concepts of Western civilisation, introduced by Athenian democracy and Socrates, in spite of the fact that the former condemned the latter to death.

When communism tried to blot out history and remake the world from scratch, one of the first things it did was to shut up the humanist tradition of asking inconvenient questions, and stop the teaching of the classics. Now Moscow and Leningrad have announced that they are reopening their old gymnasia for teaching children Latin and Greek before university.

Gymnasium is an agreeably odd word from our common European heritage. The original Greek means a place for naked training. Then it came to mean a school for learning other things besides stripping and wrestling, for discussion as well as the discus. It came into Germany and the other continental countries to mean a school of the highest grade designed to prepare students for the universities, by teaching them the humane and liberal arts. It slipped into Russian more easily than into most languages, because Russian is the most important of the Slavonic languages, which originated in Greece. Here is Dr Johnson in characteristically building English chauvinist vein: "A Cambridge and Oxford surpass the gymnasia of foreign countries. This has not always been true, when you remember the great traditions of classical scholarship on the Continent. It is glorious news that the doors to the humanities and our common heritage are opening up again in the East."

...and moreover
ALAN COREN

Fifty-two? No age they said. Fifty-two? These days? No age? They said it all day Wednesday. Rang up dropped in brought presents, popped corks, filled the premises with cheery cards (albeit mainly about impotence and coffin), shouted through clouds of marzipan crumbs, what Gladstone did at 87, what Picasso did at 83, what Rubinstein did at 88.

Convinced me utterly. Despite what, after 50, has become the annual shock of seeing it written down, I did not feel what 52 sounded as if one should feel like. After tea, I went over to the club and played three sets without dying, and it was one of those good days when the Fate who handles the forty portfolio allows the ball to coincide with the racket more often than not, and you think, *Bring me I want Bring me Boris!* and you jog home feeling good, despite the little hiccups, trilling beside you to the effect that even if they were to bring you Fred Perry, you'd be going back on a stretcher.

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There is a child outside, in a pram. I crane: could it be? Too late, here is Hutton knocking up 364, here is a flying-boat inaugurating the England-Australia run, here is six-year-old Teddy Kennedy opening the Children's Zoo, here is Gracie, singing as we go, here is Englishman Dick Seaman winning the German grand prix in what appears to be a Mercedes soap-box car. Dick has a swastika round his neck.

The End. And, at that exact moment, a Lancaster thunders overhead, rattling the eashes, and I run outside just in time to see it, flanked by a Spitfire and a Hurricane. How nice of Tom King to lay it on, if a little of trop. It's not as if I'm 90, or anything.

Just 52. No age, these days. Hardly older than a Lancaster.

John Walden invites the Lords to point an admonitory finger in its nationality bill debate today

Some home truths about Hong Kong

In December 1984 the House of Commons took just six hours to debate enthusiastically, and agree unanimously, that it could with honour assent to an agreement whereby the British government would surrender the colony of Hong Kong and its Chinese inhabitants to the sovereignty of the Peoples' Republic of China under the terms laid down in the Sino-British joint declaration.

In June 1990, with only seven years to go before the agreed handover to communist China, the Commons has already devoted more than twice as much time to acrimonious debate and division over an unpopular bill, forced upon it by the government, that will give about 225,000 of Hong Kong's six million people full British passports and the choice of opting out of the Sino-British agreement any time before or after 1997.

The bill is a damage control measure the government has had to introduce in haste and against its better judgment. The reason for

its introduction is that the people of Hong Kong have lost confidence in British assurances that if they continue to live there after 1997, the Sino-British joint declaration will guarantee the continuation of their present freedom and civil rights.

The bill makes lawful a scheme whereby one passenger out of 25 aboard the Hong Kong Titanic will be allocated a free place in the solitary lifeboat. This will be given on the basis of their worth to society, as assessed by a captain and crew who will be changing ship before it enters dangerous waters.

As its critics made clear in the Commons on June 13, at the debate on the second reading, the scheme is impossible to administer fairly and will have divisive and embittering consequences, particularly within the Hong Kong civil service, which is already deeply demoralised by anxiety about the future and internal dissension over pay and conditions of service.

When the House of Lords debates the bill today, there is little members can usefully add to what was said in the Commons. The scheme comes too late and offers too little to have the anchoring and confidence-restoring effects claimed for it by the government.

The Lords has been placed in the invidious position of having to approve what may be only the first of a series of pyrrhic victories for the Thatcher government that have been precipitated by the Hong Kong crisis.

The freedom and peace of mind of those little-understood people in Hong Kong cannot be safeguarded by such a bill. Only the joint declaration, zealously honoured by China and Britain in both spirit and letter, can do that. If the Lords wishes to make a constructive contribution on this nationally contentious issue it should begin by making plain the government's responsibility for failing to make the joint declaration work as it assured Parliament and the people of

Hong Kong in 1984 that it would.

To do this convincingly the peers must advance through the verbal smokescreen set up by the last three foreign secretaries, which has it that the people of Hong Kong lost confidence in the debate on June 4, 1989, joint declaration on June 4, 1989, after witnessing the brutal crackdown by the Peking government on student demonstrators in Tiananmen Square, believing that the same thing might happen to them if they did not leave Hong Kong before 1997.

Volume two of the report on Hong Kong by the foreign affairs committee, published on June 28, 1989, is full of evidence to show that this is a half-truth and that public confidence in the joint declaration, as a guarantee of a secure future beyond 1997, began to fail in 1986. In that year the public sensed that the British government was not prepared to stand up to Peking to defend the political rights of the Hong Kong people under the agreement.

However, the foreign affairs

committee has yet to show that it is prepared to question this attempt to obfuscate the causes of the present crisis of confidence in Hong Kong as boldly as did Ted Rowlands, a member of the committee. Towards the end of the debate on June 13, Mr Rowlands dismissed the assertion by George Walden that if China was opposed it would be unrealistic to argue for a faster pace of democratic reform in Hong Kong.

If the Lords statement today persuades the foreign affairs committee to re-examine the question of responsibility for Hong Kong's loss of confidence in the Sino-British joint declaration, including the question of pressure exerted by the Chinese through MPs and the Chinese business community in Hong Kong, the Lords will have done a great service for the people of Hong Kong and for the principle of ministerial accountability to Parliament.

The author was formerly director of home affairs in the Hong Kong government.

Britain takes a lone stand against the spirit of the age

We share with Europe the sense of a new epoch, writes Daniel Johnson, but we are in danger of misinterpreting it

The British share with the rest of Europe a vague sense that something - an epoch, an ideology, a brand of politics - is ending. With the liberated peoples of the East we share a creeping recognition of the precariousness of the intellectual framework within which our political activity had been conducted for as long as most people can remember.

There, however, the analogy ends. For the British counterpart to Eastern Europe's spectral utopianism, to the Marxist shadow now retreating in the dawn of self-mastery, is assumed to be "Thatcherism". Our obscure premonition of the unknown, the inchoate but ubiquitous impression of unconsidered axioms suddenly called into question, relates not to the world around us, but to our own situation.

With the victims of socialism, we celebrate the end of a myth, the decadence of a form of politics. In our own case, though, we seem quite content that the new era that beckons ahead bears the same name as their old one: socialism.

For once the British have succumbed to a continental philosophy of history. They have convinced themselves that a new spirit of the times is abroad: a new zeitgeist. The word is characteristically German in its conjunction of two contrasting notions: *Zeitgeist* means "time-spirit". It is intended to express the mortality, not merely of the generations, but of their mentalities as well.

Whether or not he invented it, the term *zeitgeist* was introduced into philosophy and thence into general usage, by Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel. But it was not he who first conceived the underlying idea, which is that of a discernible pattern in the history of a given subject. Applied to each individual person, the *zeitgeist* is a familiar concept.

Plato, Aristotle and St Augustine expounded different explanations of the seemingly predetermined manner in which life unfolds. Shakespeare echoed them in *Henry IV, Part 2*:

There is a history in all men's lives,
Figuring the nature of the times
deceus'd,
The which observ'd, a man may
prophesy
With a new aim, of the main
chance of things
As yet not come to life, which in
their seeds
And weak beginnings lie
intreasured.

Hegel's stroke of genius was to extend the idea of this "history in all men's lives" to an entire epoch. The eternal values of medieval Christianity yielded to the transient, fluctuating zeitgeist of Hegelian pantheism.

In its modern, secularized and vulgar form, however, the zeitgeist has lost all connection with the overarching scheme of divine revelation. Now the zeitgeist is seen as no more than the lowest common denominator of a historical period: not the noblest products of human reason, but the most superficial opinions of self-proclaimed intellectual elites.

Only in this latter sense has Britain been possessed by a new zeitgeist in recent months. The conservative revolution of last year, which brought about the fall of communism in Central Europe and is still bitterly contested there, is the absolute antithesis of the new political climate in Britain.

Here the shift is decidedly against the most consistently conservative leader in Western Europe: Margaret Thatcher. Here there is a subtle and so far successful attempt by the greater part of the intelligentsia (right-wing as well as left-wing) to suggest that the era of free-market conservatism is now ending. They believe that the historical dialectic of British party politics now requires a corrective shift away from anti-socialism and hence a neo-socialist government - that the zeitgeist, in short, has given the thumbs-down.

This campaign is reinforced by the impression, widely propagated in liberal organs of opinion, that in other countries, too, the zeitgeist of the 1990s is returning to a



modulated version of the social-democratic consensus of the 1960s or 1970s. France and Spain are already under neo-socialist rule; Germany is said to be ready to follow them. In the United States the Reagan years are now comprehensively written off as a kind of Great Gatsby era: conspicuous consumption masking social injustice.

To meet the requirements of serious philosophical underpinning, the advocates of the new zeitgeist need a big idea. Environmentalism, which has rich potential as a source of pseudo-apocalyptic rhetoric, is at present the strongest candidate. It has

already been conscripted in the battle against capitalism. But socialism has not been abandoned. It now shows itself in a form which pays deferential respect to the material rewards of the past decade, while reserving the right to penalise the wealth-providers. The neo-socialists offer obeisance to Mammon; devotion they reserve for backward-looking Janus.

Only a few intellectuals on the left appear to have grasped that the ideological scaffold on which Britain's old Tory zeitgeist is due to be executed has been rotten beyond repair by the subversion of "reform communism" in the past year. Not that the British Labour

party has ever willingly acknowledged the relevance of the left's reverses overseas to its own internal formation of policy. Socialism in one island used to be the unspoken assumption, since British voters had never shown much enthusiasm for imitating the ideological rigour of the continental socialists.

Whiggish to a fault, the socialist version of British history had its own historical timetable. Britain moved at its own pace, independent of the cosmic zeitgeist. The "cunning" of historical rationality, which Hegel apostrophized, made no headway against the boneheaded resistance of our insularity.

As the new democracies, not content with demolishing the command economy, also cast aside Keynesian nostrums, the British seem bent on celebrating the zeitgeist of post-Thatcherism with an inauguration ceremony of spectacular financial improvidence.

People are driven to fury by the tolerable but (through elections) largely avoidable burden of local taxation, and to despair by the intolerable and (for most young families) unavoidable burden of mortgage interest repayments on depreciating properties. Yet the same individuals seem resigned to the further sacrifices which Labour's latest experiment in centralised wealth redistribution would inevitably impose.

This is a nation gripped by a kind of frenzied cognitive insecurity, lurching from one cur-price philosophical import to another, uniquely vulnerable to academic fraud. Our ancestors mercifully failed to understand the significance of the Hegelian tradition of German thought, including Marxism, for the 150 years during which it was still intellectually seductive. Today the British are unwittingly clutching at fragments of its philosophical floss.

Goethe thought he had witnessed the birth of a new zeitgeist on the field of Valmy. Those who saw last year's conservative revolutions in Eastern Europe at first hand had a comparable experience. After all that, to be obliged to watch the successful attempt to serve up reshaped "market socialism" as the politics of post-Thatcherism is an exquisite torture.

Protest in the cathedral

There will be six empty seats in the front pew of St Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh tomorrow when the former deputy-governor of Britain's most secure prison is ordained as a priest. John Morrison, until recently responsible for 900 staff and 1,300 prisoners at Wormwood Scrubs, has invited Billy Power, Patrick Hill, Hugh Callaghan, John Walker, Gerard Hunter and Richard McLennan to the ceremony. All are old acquaintances from his days at the Scrubs, but none will be able to attend, for the men are still prison inmates, known collectively as the Birmingham Six.

Morrison, aged 53, has turned his back on a brilliant career in the prison service, say his former colleagues, but he insists he has no regrets. Of his invitation to the six he says: "I always planned to invite them and prayed against all the odds recent pressure might have won their release. But they will be with me in my heart." Morrison is among the group's firmest supporters. "I got to know them all very well and I cannot over-emphasise their innocence. What I remember most is their undoubted and patient goodness. They are remarkable people. I once told them they were doing their purgatory now. They are suffering like Christ."

One for the road

Neil Kinnock's latest front-bench appointment has the makings of an own goal. Peter Pike has been promoted to the party's rural affairs

portfolio, ostensibly to champion the cause of the countryside. This worthy aim has been somewhat undermined by the Burnley MP's support both for the proposed M65 Bamber Bridge-Blackburn extension, which will plough through 12 miles of woodland and a country park, and by his support for a proposed theme park at nearby Huncoo, which would involve the removal of 270 acres of green belt. It's like appointing Arthur Scargill as head of industrial relations," says Simon Jones, a local councillor. But Pike rejects the criticism, arguing that his constituents must come first and the developments will benefit them. "Burnley is the fastest-shrinking town in the country," he says. "Jobs will not come to the area unless they are linked to good communications." In which case, should not Kinnock make him a transport spokesman?

Network nerves

Millions of dollars rest on the decision today of his colleagues in the central committee on whether to open the Communist party congress on Monday or postpone it until the autumn. All of America's top television networks have their crack teams on standby, ready to startle Moscow citizens with live reports from Red Square. Veteran CBS anchorman Dan Rather has his powder puff packed ready for the trip, as do ABC's Peter Jennings and NBC's Tom Brokaw. "This is a major news story and we are putting all our resources into it," says an NBC source.

Accustomed to Democratic and Republican party congresses,



where events are organised almost exclusively for the cameras, the aristocrats of American television can scarcely hide their irritation as they kick their heels. If they do make the trip, viewers can look forward to some bizarre reports. No matter what time of day it is on location, the anchorman tailor their reports to the home audience. Addressing a breakfast time audience on the East Coast of America they will act as if it is morning in Moscow, despite the fact that the Muscovites, eight hours ahead, are shuffling home after a hard day's work.

Asking for Haig

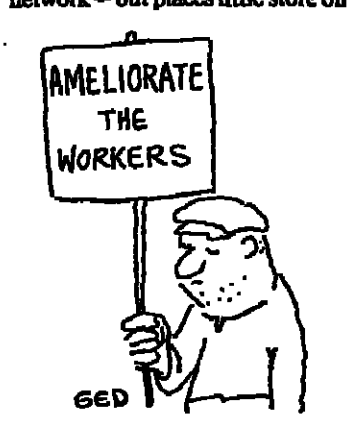
More than 70 years after hundreds of thousands of British and allied troops commanded by Field Marshall Sir Douglas Haig died in the mud at Passchendaele and on the Somme, Haig's son will today continue to defend his father's reputation when he opens the First World War exhibition at the Imperial War Museum.

Earl Haig, a painter who lives in Melrose, Scotland, is distressed by what his father was a callous Colonel Blimp who threw away lives for a few hundred yards

of mud. He is flattered by the invitation to open the exhibition, a recreation of life in the trenches, taking it to be a belated recognition that Haig was not the bloodthirsty villain portrayed in the 1969 film, *Oh What a Lovely War*. "My father was a man of vision and determination... a great human being, a great leader," he says.

Brotherly love

With the TUC in financial trouble and announcing an increase in union dues on Wednesday, the brothers at Congress House might take a leaf out of the book of their Japanese counterparts. To improve its image, the union at Mitsubishi Electric has just been renamed the Life Orientated Network and its red logo has been replaced with a pale blue one. The union, now fondly known as Melon (the Mitsubishi Electric Life Orientated Network) offers guidelines on how employees can enjoy free time, cope with retirement and enjoy being part of the old-boy network - but places little store on



screwing money out of the bosses. (Well, union is run by the company.) At Matsushita Electric, a similar transformation is under way. Its union, previously known as the Matsushita Workers Union, is now The Human Union. What price Ron Todd and the Warm and Cuddly Transport and General Workers, or Arthur Scargill and the National Union of Kindly Miners Who Help Little Old Ladies Across The Road?

Going for broke

Even the Russians are not exempt from the poll tax. Camden council is refusing to be beaten in its efforts to extract about £125,000 in community-charge payments from the 300 or so members of the Russian trade delegation housed in the London borough. Since demands were issued in April the delegation has been claiming diplomatic immunity, but Camden this week told the Russians to pay up. Only those delegates who produce diplomatic passports, believed to number about 30, will be immune: the rest will have to pay £500.

If the Russians finally concede defeat it is expected that they will apply for anonymous registration on grounds of security. Camden is confident that such conditions can be met. "They won't be anonymous to us," says a spokesman. There is, however, a difficulty in the large turnover of trade delegation staff. What will the local authority do in cases of non-payment, should a member of the delegation slip back to his homeland? "I very much doubt the council would apply for an extradition treaty," says one source at Camden.



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ASKING A SILLY QUESTION

The Home Office has disregarded the advice of its committee on the fear of crime and continued to publish quarterly "crime" figures. These worse than useless figures reinforce a false impression of the true state of community behaviour in Britain; they sow fear of a violent "crime wave" especially among the elderly; and they reinforce the cliché that "the country is going to the dogs".

Crime figures gathered by the police record social misbehaviour as it is written down in a book at a police station. Such figures are subject to many variables. Recording practice is different in different police forces. It varies according to the pace of legislation, the practice of the courts and, above all, from one generation to the next. So wide are these variables that comparisons over time are all but meaningless. Only about 40 per cent of crime is estimated as recorded: a small change in reporting practice can thus produce an apparently drastic rise or fall in the total.

A police swoop on children glue-sniffing will send "drug" crime soaring. A raid on a lavatory frequented by homosexuals led to a "shock rise" in London's "sex crime". A plea for women to be more forthcoming in reporting domestic rape had the same effect. A change in insurance company requirements for reporting lost goods can cause a huge change in "reported" theft and burglary. More police officers almost inevitably mean more recorded crime — and every year there are more police officers.

The spread of telephone ownership has boosted reported crime, for obvious reasons that have nothing to do with real crime. A more prosperous society is more likely to record every violent domestic tiff, every pub brawl, every vandalised lamp-post, just as the growth of car use is bound to mean more damage to and theft from vehicles.

Only in the past ten years has the Home Office been collecting its own crime figures independent of the police, through the British Crime Survey. Based on asking ordinary citizens rather than police officers of their

experience of crime, the BCS has come to helpful conclusions. Although only three sweeps have so far been conducted (during the 1980s), they suggest that crime is more widespread than police figures indicate but that it has probably always been so; and is rising, if at all, not as fast as the police maintain. Indeed, long-term students of crime tend to the view that society is no more evil in its behaviour, but that definitions of evil are ever more severe.

This means that many misdemeanours especially by the young, which were once seen as no more than deplorable, are now regarded as criminal. People have more valuable property, and leave it unguarded on the street. We insure more of our goods and report any loss. We expect our lives, our schools, our pubs and our neighbourhoods to be peaceful to a degree that our predecessors never did. This is a sign of an improving way of life. But it should force us to question whether crime really is on the increase, rather than our expectation of a crime-free environment. We should be sceptical of evidence from those, such as the police, who might wish to maintain a level of alarm to secure ever more public money.

Some police forces have tried to put their figures in context, for instance where drives on mugging and rape have led to wide fluctuations. But each year new crimes are created by parliament and new pressures imposed on the police to clear them up. The harder the police work, the more of the 60 per cent of "hidden" crime they uncover. By publishing misleading figures, the police and Home Office confuse the public. Like the television programmes (and even the newspapers) that exploit fear of crime to boost audiences, they scare people and induce them to change habits in ways unjustified by reality.

As a first step away from a crime-obsessed society, these figures should never be published without the clearest health warning. As a second, and to show their bogus nature, they should be published only once a year.

THE SAD STATE OF ZAMBIA

Behind the riots in Zambia this week lies deep popular disgust with a quarter of a century of authoritarian socialism. The spark which lit the streets may have been the price rise for maize meal, the country's staple food. But thousands joined the students behind barricades to chant slogans against the self-styled father of this hapless country, President Kenneth Kaunda, and his United National Independence Party which has presided over Zambia's ruin.

The government responded with callous brutality. Questioned about the use of live ammunition, Zambia's security minister, Alex Shapi, responded: "If the rioters want to kill themselves, let them go ahead." President Kaunda need look no further than his entourage to identify those causing unrest, no further than his looking-glass to see the "enemies" of Zambia whom he castigated on state-controlled television as the townships buried their dead.

"KK", Africa's great preacher, so frequently overcome by his own sermons that his handkerchief is perpetually at the ready, has shared the experience of many Eastern European rulers in being the darling of the British left. Generations of Labour party leaders have trooped through Lusaka, Zambia's capital, praising Mr Kaunda's high moral stand on apartheid. They have overlooked his failure to put into practice democratic freedoms and the mismanagement of his misnamed welfare state. They have done so, bluntly, because he is the black leader of a third world country.

Typical was Neil Kinnock's demand, on returning from one of these trips in 1988, that Britain release £30 million in aid which had sensibly been withheld when, after the last round of riots, Mr Kaunda tore up an economic reform programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund. Why should Mr Kinnock now be so silent when the subjects of African one-party states demand the departure

of dictators? Why should the left condemn the conditions for economic reform set by the two organisations, the IMF and the World Bank, which have the thankless task of picking up the pieces in black Africa?

Zambia was one of the richest countries in Africa at independence in 1964. Few states outside Eastern Europe demonstrate more glaringly the catastrophe of socialism and the evil of a command economy. Mr Kaunda's mismanagement has ensured that average per capita growth since 1964 — an average which includes the years of the great copper boom — has been minus 2.1 per cent a year. This inglorious record has been financed by recklessly generous foreign aid and by incurring debts of more than \$7 billion, nearly \$1,000 a head in a country where per capita earnings are \$290 a year.

Mr Kaunda has been forced to endorse a fresh strategy for economic recovery drawn up by the IMF and the World Bank. This involves strict controls on government spending, devaluation to encourage exports, freeing prices, and some easing of the state's stranglehold on economic life. The appointment of a Canadian governor for the Bank of Zambia should ensure some confidence in monetary discipline.

The proof that the medicine is beginning to work is that the rioters found something on the shelves of the state shops to loot; a year ago, they were bare. What Zambians are now saying is familiar: hardships will not be tolerated without political reforms. Last month President Kaunda reluctantly promised a referendum on multi-party democracy, but warned Zambians that rejection of the governing party's monopoly of power would be "courting national disaster". Party officials are telling peasants that democracy would mean eviction from their land. If there is to be a vote, what price a free one?

PULLING DOWN THE FENCES

A fierce but arcane argument broke out earlier this year over the "ring-fencing" of government grants to pay for the community care of the mentally ill. The government wished to give councils the money unfenced, trusting them to spend it wisely. The welfare and medical professionals believed this would risk their budgets and the interests of their patients. The government stood its ground. The professionals, having said the system cannot work, will be quick to cry "we told you so" if and when it collapses.

The case for ring-fencing was at face value reasonable. Grant money ring-fenced by the central government would not go into the general pool of a local authority's assets. It could not be reallocated according to the local authority's particular priorities. The money would have to be spent on the purpose specified by parliament. The local authority would in effect become the agent of central government. But there would be no local accountability, at least over the level of expenditure. The money would have been voted by parliament for purposes desired by the local council would have been efficiency.

Yet the whole point of the policy is to transfer responsibility for the mentally ill or the mentally handicapped from various centrally financed health authorities to locally financed health authorities — in short, to the local community. Community care allows large Victorian mental institutions to be emptied and shut, modern and humane forms of residential or home care to be developed in their place, and those needing such care to become members of society once more. Banished and institutionalised, these most vulnerable people had often been deprived of dignity, respect and stimulation, a deprivation which only made their sad condition worse.

Because health authorities are centrally financed they are indeed mere agents of central

government. Giving them responsibility for the mentally ill or handicapped symbolised the way the local community had been allowed to wash its hands of such people. In principle community care means community responsibility: the local community both taking the care, and paying for it. Central government block grants save the community from paying the whole cost. But poll tax income and block Treasury grants go into the same municipal pot, stirred by the local finance department until the two moneys are indistinguishable. Who is to get what has to be decided by elected councillors; if they fail, they can be voted out.

No doubt every local authority department would like its funds ring-fenced, in order to protect them from the hungry glances of the other departments down the corridor. While community care is at the stage of transition, with new buildings required and additional administrative cost incurred in creating the new system, there is a case for generous treatment. The closing of large asylums leads to savings in health authority budgets which ought to be reflected in increases in local government budgets — the money should follow the patient. The government says it needs no persuading, and will indeed be generous. But it will not ring-fence. An authority which decides to spend the money otherwise has been left free to do so.

If local government in Britain wishes to claim freedom from the centre, then it cannot howl for protection when it is bowled a difficult ball. There may be few votes in the mentally ill, even if the public finds horror stories about failures of community care dominating their front pages. But that is local government. Councillors have rightly complained against the constant intervention in their affairs by Whitehall under Mrs Thatcher. They now have a chance to prove that, without intervention, they can do well by the most disadvantaged members of the community.

Russian studies underfunded

From Dr Norman Wooding and others

Sir, As the co-authors of a report, commissioned by ministers, on the state of Russian and East European studies in Britain we were greatly encouraged by the Prime Minister's announcement in Moscow earlier this month of 10 new lectureships. However, we were disappointed by the subsequent disclosure that what the Government has in mind is the funding of less than 50 per cent of the cost of these lectureships and for a period of only three years — a total disbursement of £300,000.

This is a totally inadequate response to the situation which our report revealed, namely that the total resource for Russian and East European studies in this country now falls very far short of the national need.

Our recommendations, of which the creation of 10 new lectureships was only one, represented what we believe to be the minimum level of new expenditure needed to secure the foundations of Russian and East European studies into the next century and to make their recovery self-sustaining. Their implementation in full would cost less than £9.5 million at 1989 prices, spread over a period of 14 years and not exceeding £1 million in any year.

Since our report was completed in August 1989, events in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe have increased the urgency and importance of making good a major weakness in our educational resource. To take but one example, the accelerating evolution of the Soviet Union into a loose confederation of autonomous republics can only increase the requirement, in industry and government, for knowledge of Russian — the *lingua franca* which they share.

There have been recent suggestions that education should be a major beneficiary of the defence savings which political developments now make it possible to envisage. It is hard to conceive of a more appropriate use for a very small proportion of those savings than the improvement of our understanding of countries with whom we can now hope to work in partnership instead of facing them in confrontation.

Yours faithfully,
N. S. WOODING,
(Chairman, East European Trade Council),
BRYAN CARTLEDGE,
(Principal, Lincoln College, Oxford),
MALCOLM JONES,
(University of Nottingham, Department of Slavonic Studies),
Boss Lane House, Boss Lane,
Hugghendun, High Wycombe,
Buckinghamshire,
June 26.

Teachers' salaries

From Mr J. D. Booker

Sir, A short while ago the government was proposing to attract more mathematicians into teaching careers by offering them higher pay scales than other teachers.

It now seems that, in order to stay within their budgets under the new system of financing schools, head teachers are having to make higher-paid teachers redundant.

Surely, in the circumstances, better career prospects would be offered if mathematics teachers were offered a lower than average salary?

Yours faithfully,
J. D. BOOKER,
3 Willow Way,
Farnham, Surrey.

Cathedral appeal

From Mr Alan Richardson

Sir, I refer to your Diary column of June 6, "Cathedral confrontation". Far from "boycotting" Mr Edward Heath's concert and going off to the pub for a sandwich as your Diaryist implied, I happily paid my £25 and attended the concert last Saturday.

The "meat in the sandwich" was exquisitely tender and delicious, a truly superb concert. Congratulations to all concerned. The sum in aid of the spire appeal is expected to equal at least the record sum of £163,000 that Mr Heath raised at his concert last year. It suggests that God and Mammon can join hands on occasions with great credit to both.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN RICHARDSON,
(Editor, Salisbury Cathedral News),
33 New Street,
Salisbury, Wiltshire,
June 26.

Cambridge plea

From Sir Hermann Bondi, FRS, and Dr Richard Grove

Sir, It now appears (report, June 27) that the debate among European Community ministers about the location of the European Environment Agency may continue for some time. We trust that in comparing Cambridge and Copenhagen as favoured choices the following considerations will be taken into account:

The organisation of an effective ecological research and data-gathering programme for Europe will depend heavily on the ability to combine the best academic, analytical and computing resources available. Furthermore, the presence of well-established and systematic links with individual scientists and international organisations, particularly in the Third World and Eastern Europe, will be essential.

The current development in

Views of complementary medicine

From Professor Michael Baum

Sir, I have no great objection to alternative practices that are used as complementary to orthodox medical science (report and leading article, June 26), providing they make the patient feel better. However the high priests of the alternative movement are now insisting that their practices can actually make the patients get better. As a result I am now seeing with increasing frequency the disgusting end results of breast cancers effectively neglected for years, resembling engravings from Victorian textbooks of medicine.

I would like to suggest that the distinction between alternative and orthodox medicine is simply that of science versus non-science, or the competing claims of the rationalism that has been hard won, since the age of enlightenment, versus a return to the inductive philosophy of the dark ages dressed up in the fashionable new garments of the "new age" movement.

All so-called holistic practices are comprehensive closed-belief systems. Yet surprisingly, instead of quarrelling amongst themselves, they unite into a curious rainbow alliance, ignoring the problems of the placebo effect, the prolonged and variable natural history of chronic disease, and the organic manifestations of psychological disturbance.

Anecdotal case reports are used as the only proof of efficacy. This is precisely the same quality of evidence that was adduced in favour of blood-letting (which was so rightly condemned in your editorial) which remained fashionable up until the 1830s.

In contrast scientific medicine has evolved since that time by espousing a deductive and rational approach and has the intellectual honesty of subjecting its best ideas to the hazards of falsification. Far from arrogance, the modern medical scientist is constantly humbled by the fierce scepticism of his professional colleagues and progress is made slowly and systematically through a series of conjectures and refutations.

The essential modesty of this approach contrasts starkly with the belief that the solution to most of nature's enigmas was revealed to the ancient sages or the latter-day prophets of the lunatic fringe.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BAUM,
The Royal Marsden Hospital,
Fulham Road, SW3.

From Mr Peter Rost, MP for Erewash (Conservative)

Sir, Your leader highlights yet again the growing popularity of complementary medicine. Essentially, people are getting even more disenchanted with orthodox medicine's excessive reliance on drugs and surgery, but also with the fact that doctors still tend to treat symptoms rather than addressing the deeper causes of illness. Against this, it should be said that many doctors, and nurses too, are beginning to embrace the

Calcult proposals

From Mr W. Tadd

Sir, How might the great newspaper proprietors of yesterday have reacted to the Calcult proposals (details, June 22) and the politicians' eager acceptance of them? Surely not with the submissive alacrity of the NPA (Newspaper Publishers Association), which has pulled the rug from under the Press Council and meekly succumbed to the establishment of a controlling body composed of members in whose appointment it will have no say, merely the privilege of paying for.

A body, moreover, which will be specifically excluded from taking account of "the freedom of the press", or more accurately the right of the public to be informed.

Armed forces cuts

From Vice-Admiral Sir James Jungius

Sir, There is much speculation about the future size and shape of the Armed Forces, following the dramatic changes in East-West relations. A reduction of the Army and RAF presence in central Europe seems to be an understandable front runner. Mobile and flexible forces are said to be what we shall need.

When it comes to the Navy, commentators tend to say "and of course there will need to be a reduction of the frigate fleet". However that statement is not often backed by any rationale. When it comes to flexibility and mobility the frigate must be close to the top of the list in our armory.

Cambridge of the Inter-disciplinary Environment Centre, combining the resources of the university, the British Antarctic Survey, the World Conservation Monitoring Centre, the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology and the Nature Conservancy Council, will provide the basis for the kind of agency that the whole of Europe actually needs to cope with a depressingly wide range of environmental problems.

It may be remembered that the discovery of the Antarctic ozone hole, as well as pioneering work on the greenhouse effect, are among recent achievements of the environmental community here. Without questioning the high standing and quality of Danish science, Copenhagen cannot boast

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holistic approach to health-care.

It is against this background that it is important to be aware that each of the complementary therapies has done, or is doing, the detailed work required to set its own appropriate standards of entry, training and practice. Given all this activity, now is the time for the Government to make a detailed statement on what it expects the therapies to do before they can be accepted into a wider, and more enlightened NHS.

Yours faithfully,
PETER ROST,
(Joint chairman, parliamentary group for alternative and complementary medicine),
House of Commons,
June 26.

From Dr Richard Tonkin

Sir, We thoroughly agree with your leader "Physician heal thyself". The principal object of the Research Council for Complementary Medicine, composed of both orthodox and complementary practitioners, is to foster authoritative scientific research into alternative therapeutic methods.

Some notable progress has been made: for example we have published the results of a study of the use of acupuncture to control nausea following chemotherapy (Dundee) and of a controlled trial of the homeopathic principle (Taylor Reilly). In all, 12 projects have been completed so far and others are in train, but serious scientific research takes time, to be measured in years rather than months, and necessarily money.

We agree there are further questions, such as cost-effectiveness, the answers to which could be of great importance in the future funding of a wider-based NHS, but the priority now is to establish beyond traditional professional doubt the effectiveness, rather than the relative cheapness, of some alternative treatments. And that is our objective.

Yours,
RICHARD D. TONKIN
(President),
The Research Council for Complementary Medicine,
60 Great Ormond Street, WC1.
June 27.

From the Earl of Clanwilliam

Sir, The medical profession has indeed been slow to take advice from older and sometimes more primitive civilisations who seem to survive without modern medicine, but it is gratifying for instance that the Medical Research Council have acknowledged the benefits of chiropractic (report, later editions, June 1). This acknowledgement will revolutionise these approaches and save man's hours, NHS beds and a vast drug bill.

I hope in the near future that the natural therapy of herbal medicine will be granted equal status with a similar release of NHS resources.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
CLANWILLIAM,
Blundells House,
Tisbury, Wiltshire.

and which will inevitably be replaced by a statutory tribunal, once the thin end of the wedge has been inserted.

Rather than be conspirators in their own emasculation, today's proprietors would have far better served the traditions of the press and the interests of the public by placing the odium for the introduction of censorship where it properly belongs, and telling the politicians, "Legislate and be damned".

Yours faithfully,
BILL TADD
(Joint General Secretary),
Institute of Journalists,
2 Dock Offices,
Surrey Quays,
Lower Road, SE16.
June 27.

Packaged in one hull there is air defence, anti-submarine, command and control, reconnaissance, gunfire support for the Army, disaster relief and some passenger-carrying capability. All this in a highly mobile vehicle which only requires about 200 people to man it.

There have been few incidents involving the services in the last 45 years when frigates were not one of the first units sent for, be it UN operations in Korea, Beira patrol, cod war, Falkland Islands or protection of shipping in the Persian Gulf. If the frigate fleet is to be cut, let us understand that we are losing flexibility and mobility.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES JUNGUIS,
Lavithick, Mylor Churchtown,
Falmouth, Cornwall.

of an unrivalled network of world-class environmental institutions as Cambridge does.

The British scientific community, assisted by responsible industrial sponsors, have already shown the extent of their "green" commitment. It is now up to the Government to take its turn in trying to influence the EC towards a more considered decision on the European Environment Agency. A useful start might be made in this direction if the Secretary of State for the Environment were to back his selection of Cambridge as the site for the agency with a serious financial commitment.

Yours faithfully,
HERMANN BONDI
(Master, Churchill College),
RICHARD GROVE
(Project initiator,
Cambridge Inter-disciplinary Environment Centre),
Churchill College, Cambridge,
June 27.

Homeless in the Bullring, SE1

From Sister Joan O'Donoghue

Sir, May I, as a Catholic nun, thank you for your recent articles on the homeless people (June 18 and 20). For the past 16 months a group of local people have been accompanying me to the Bullring under Waterloo Station each week — sometimes twice a week — taking food and clothes to the people living there. We have built up a good relationship with many of them, and I am sure we have touched on the psychology which indicates their plight.

Basically, there are five categories: (1) those who have been forced on to the streets because of the economic situation of the day ("There but for the grace of God go I") and are constantly on the move looking for a means to improve their lot; (2) those with chronic drink problems, who have hit rock bottom and are segregated into one very dirty and dingy area; (3) young people on drugs — a very united and close-knit group who are totally loyal and impenetrable, as far as we are concerned; (4) those who have been in institutions and now roam aimlessly about, without stimulation or care.

The fifth category consists of the constant newcomers. Many of these are under the age of 18. Some give false names, lie about their background and their age to avoid recognition. They are the ones who beg, and we have seen many of them being absorbed into the drug group, becoming addicts themselves. On occasions, when there has been a police raid, because someone has been beaten up and the ring-leaders have been taken away, they are often ready to take on the role of leadership. It is a vicious circle and there is nothing that we can do to prevent it.

Many of these young people have escaped from terrible home problems and want to be free of the depression and fear of their home lives. They want to play their part as normal citizens in society. It is amazing how they respond to genuine concern and love on the part of adults.

I am certain that if these youngsters were given priority, society would reap the rewards in the long run. Just putting them in hostels is not enough. It is coming across loud and clear that they want to work, to be happy and to enjoy their sacred lives.

Yours sincerely,
SISTER JOAN O'DONOGHUE,
Daughters of Mary and Joseph,
23 Montacute Road,
New Addington, Croydon, Surrey.

From Mrs Alison Black

Sir, Robin Oakley reports (June 18) on the proposed national survey of numbers of homeless people as part of a £6.9 million research programme. Surely there are enough groups of interested and committed people who have been working with this appalling social problem for a number of years, who have the experience and expertise to provide the required information, without the Government spending huge sums of money on another survey.

Yours faithfully,
ALISON BLACK,
Walmer House, Borden,
Tonbridge, Kent,
June 20.

New world order

From the editor of Fourth World Review

Sir, Mr Trudeau ("No group is an island..."), June 23, appears to be seeking to stand history on its head. The small nations of the Balkans did not become a byword for instability and conflict because of their nationalist aspirations but because those aspirations were, as in many cases, still repressed by the conflicting interests of greater powers.

Small nations may often be the victims of aggression and power-mongering; they are today seldom the instigators of it. When did the different nations of Scandinavia last attack anyone?

Ethnic unrest is not a purely Canadian problem; it is a global phenomenon related to the rise of democracy and points to the fact that people are no longer prepared to be consigned within monster, 19th-century state structures.

If Mr Trudeau persists in seeing "Balkanisation" as a threat let him take heart from the Scandinavian promise of a global order of thousands of small, independent, prosperous, pacific and politically tolerant nations. They will be united not in rigid institutional and bureaucratically-dominated structures in a world gone mad with militarism, greed and economic excess, but naturally and functionally in the common sense, organically-structured world polity of tomorrow.

With respect,
JOHN PAPWORTH, Editor,
Fourth World Review,
24 Abercorn Place, NWS.

Cash conundrum

From Dr R. J. Collins

Sir, With respect to the new bank notes, why is it that the Treasury repeatedly chooses to put the great men of science of engineering into our money and yet the Government refuses to put more money into our great men of science and engineering?

Yours etc.,
ROB COLLINS,
Dorset Institute,
Department of Computing and Cognition,
Wallisdown Road,
Wallisdown, Poole, Dorset.

Young masters on the move

The RCA's painting school leaves its famous Exhibition Road studios today. Sue Moore traces some legendary brush-strokes

Today is the final day of the last term the Royal College of Art painters will spend in the Exhibition Road studios which have been their home for more than a century.

The rooms where Sylvia Pankhurst painted her suffragette banners, David Hockney drew skeletons and Frank Auerbach sketched in a black cloud of charcoal will soon be filled with builders contracted by the neighbouring Victoria & Albert Museum, already behind schedule with a process of internal dismantling that will convert the famous studios into a series of offices and laboratories for the museum's conservation and collection departments.

As well as a dozen tutors, all of them practising artists, and 45 students, the painting school boasts the spirits of a clutch of illustrious alumni. For former student and present senior tutor Michael Heindorf, one of the greatest attractions of studying at the RCA was the fact that "living legends were coming in to teach. R.B. Kitaj and Ruskin Spear, and at that stage David Hockney used to come in very early in the morning to look around the studios". Artist Jake Tilson concurs that "working in Exhibition Road one was very aware of the history — it was steeped in it — not in a dusty way; I found it exciting".

The roll-call of old boys and girls provides a pretty comprehensive survey of the best in modern British painting: Edward Burra, John Piper, Cecil Collins, John Minton, Frank Auerbach, Malcolm Morley, Peter Blake, Bridget Riley and, more recently, Thérèse Oulton. Ian Jacobs, a first-year painting student, thinks moving to new premises will be an opportunity to "make a fresh start away from the history here. Maybe we won't feel so cramped by the thought of all the old masters looking over our shoulders."

A significant proportion of the RCA's "old masters" are paid to look over shoulders. Derek Boshier, pop artist turned figurative painter, has recently been back to teach in the studios where he worked alongside Blake and Hockney in the late Fifties. Mr Boshier spent a morning last week wandering the corridors with a video camera. "This used to be my old space here — and that used to be David Hockney's over there." As he stood in the huge mural studio, where a magnificent wall of windows reaches up to the 30ft ceilings, Mr Boshier recalled the first time he met Richard Hamilton, who had been invited by the students to give a critique of work. "He had to give a prize for the best piece, and he actually gave the prize to David Hockney, but just before he gave it, he looked at Ron Kitaj's work and he asked if these

two paintings were by the same person. We all giggled."

In the attic space above the mural room, professor of painting Paul Huxley recounts an incident from the student days of John Bratby. "He used to doss out up here and cook himself bacon and eggs in the morning. It wasn't until the smell of fried bacon wafted down that the tutors discovered he was living here. One morning Ruskin Spear came banging on the ceiling with his stick, saying 'Bratby! I know you're up there. Come on down!'"

The buildings have not always inspired fondness. Soon after the Royal College first moved into Exhibition Road in 1864, there were complaints about the unsuitability of the studios. Female students were embarrassed by the vivid language of the ostlers in the street, and everyone complained of the smell from the V&A dining-room. "It's not much different today," Professor Huxley confesses. "They're truck drivers rather than ostlers, and you still hear crashes and loading and swearing and shouting. We don't get the smell from the V&A restaurant any more, but we do get great purple tubs of refuse which the squirrels in the neighbourhood scavenge from."

The move has been in the pipeline for many years. In 1974, under the rectorship of Lord Escher, arrangements were made with the V&A to extend the 110-year-old Exhibition Road lease for another 16 years. It was agreed that in 1990 the buildings would be handed over to the museum, and the painting school would transfer from Exhibition Road to a £14 million building currently under construction at the RCA's Kensington Gore site.

But the construction has been problematic. The new building, between Jay Mews and Queens Gate, was designed by architect John Miller to comply with English Heritage strictures regarding the existing Victorian facade. These plans had to be redrawn when English Heritage subsequently requested that internal staircases be retained, and the project was set back two years. It seemed for a while that the painting school could be homeless. The RCA's rector, Jocelyn Stevens, says: "We've been working and planning towards this move for the past four years, and this is the one thing we hadn't believed could have happened."

The site should be ready for use by the summer of 1991. Meanwhile Mr Stevens has been engaged in an urgent search for temporary accommodation, and has recently found a site in Waterloo which will be home to the painters for the next academic year.

"We're just happy that we have somewhere to go," says Ian Jacobs,



"We two boys together clinging": David Hockney (left) and Derek Boshier in the RCA studios in 1961

"but everyone is pretty sad about leaving." Everyone seems pleased, though, about the reunion of the painting school with the rest of the RCA in Kensington Gore. Professor Huxley envisages an increase in the two-way traffic between art and design that flourished in the early Sixties, when Zandra Rhodes's dresses were inspired by Hockney's paintings, and Derek Boshier was enrolled as sign-writer for Pauline Fordham's boutique, Palisades.

From his large and airy studio cum office on the first floor in Exhibition Road, Professor Huxley appreciates the privileged feeling of "independence and generous space" that the painting school has enjoyed there, although the rambling, dry-rot-ridden old studios became a severe financial drain on the college. "We were spending a terrifying amount of money on the buildings in Exhibition Road," Mr Stevens says. "I'd rather spend the money on teaching."

An important attraction of the Exhibition Road studios for painters was their proximity to the museum. "The V&A and RCA grew up together," Professor Huxley says, "and in many respects it is not

inaccurate to say that the V&A was our prop room." Visits to the museum's collection have formed an integral part of painting studies for many years. R.B. Kitaj recalls "only fond memories of the RCA, and of much time spent in the V&A through a secret door". Michael Heindorf too valued the frequent forays to the neighbouring galleries: "Howard Hodgkin used to take me next door to the V&A for tutorials."

The days when students could wander into college through the V&A and pop out into the galleries down a special staircase are sadly long gone. The series of bomb attacks on public buildings in the early Seventies saw the connecting door blocked, but long before that, the V&A authorities were growing unhappy with their student neighbours. On one occasion a drunken student crashed through the roof on to a member of the audience in the V&A lecture hall, and less spectacular annoyance was regularly created by the groups of scruffy students who frequented the museum's coffee bar.

However, relations between museum and college have grown more neighbourly of late. The joint

V&A/RCA course in the history of design has done much to strengthen links between the two venerable South Kensington institutions.

For all the optimism about the future, there is an undeniable sense of loss and nostalgia among the many talented painters who have passed through the building. "It was a cultural haven," the artist John Bellamy remembers, "steeped in tradition, where artists had trodden the boards for years and years. I feel very sad that new generations will not feel the warmth of Exhibition Road." Mr Heindorf sums up the close bond between many ex-students of the college: "The building has helped to sustain a momentum of continuity. It creates a long-standing loyalty among like-minded professionals who have sympathy through their shared institute of education."

But as the old tradition passes, the foundations of another are literally being laid. Up in the Darwin Building at Kensington Gore, Mr Stevens voices confidence for the future: "Our new building will provide the painters with wonderful, large, purpose-built studios — a safe home for the next 96 years."

New Argonauts in Georgia

A British couple have formed a joint venture company with a pair in Tbilisi for anything from printing to art tours

In classical times, Jason and his Argonauts sailed to Georgia in search of the Golden Fleece. In January my husband, John, and I created a new Golden Fleece: a joint venture company in Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia. Our trading agreement is with Moon Globe, a Georgia-registered company run by Georgi Levashov-Tumanishvili and his wife, Marina.

John and I have invested £5,000 in the venture. Georgi, a film-maker, and Marina, who lectures in English at Tbilisi University, have contributed premises and introduced various projects ranging from publishing and tourism to the purchase of sizeable ships.

Our job is to put these opportunities to well-established British businesses. As director of the Great Britain-USSR Association, John has spent the past 17 years opening doors for British and Soviet people on a basis of shared professional interests.

Our business rounds in Tbilisi began with a visit to our HQ — a magnificent Stalin period "castle" built to house the Georgian chess federation, and later home to the Academy of Sciences.

The people gathered to meet us were varied: film-makers, journalists, academics, administrators, all willing to devote much time and energy to Mr Tumanishvili's commercial company.

Alexander is the head of one of the faculties of the Georgian Academy of Art. As leader of a contemporary art group, he wishes us to show the group's work to London galleries. As an art teacher, he would like to arrange exchanges between Georgian and British students.

Irakli and his wife are film-makers. They would like British film students to come on one or two-year courses to the film school in Tbilisi, and to start an exchange scheme. C. is a printer. He brings us samples of his work, including the national flag (much in demand), in fabric and on a lapel pin. The following day he sends round a sample T-shirt, with our Golden Fleece logo and name (in Georgian script) proudly emblazoned in purple and gold. Paper is desperately short in Georgia, and he proposes a barter deal whereby he undertakes a printing job in exchange for paper. We promise to put him in touch with a likely customer.

Timur is president of the Georgian Academy of Sciences Foreign Business Council. He can organise special interest tours for groups of up

to 30. We know there is British interest in Georgian alternative medicine, gerontology, classical and Christian period art tours. He promises to produce a "menu" of destinations and programmes.

John has to catch a plane back to Kiev where the "British Days" exhibition, which he negotiated with the Soviet government, is in full swing, after visits by the Princess Royal and Margaret Thatcher. Marina and I call on the director of the National Museum, which houses medieval enamels and icons, as well as the work of 20th-century primitivist painter Pirosmani.

We would like to arrange for a new catalogue, postcards and posters to be printed. Two British firms are interested. So is the director. He has run out of postcards to sell and the only decent catalogue, printed abroad in 1979, is too expensive (at £17) to restock.

At 4pm, I have a meeting with Georgia's foreign minister, Dr Georgi Javakhishvili, who was appointed in May 1989. He said: "Our entry into the Soviet Union was annexation. It was not voluntary."

Now we are studying models of neutrality, federation and sovereignty. The model I prefer, personally speaking, is Belgium. They have a similar profile in that they are highly developed geographically and psychologically. They also have two religions. (There is a vociferous Muslim minority in Georgia.) "The four greatest enemies of mankind," he says, "are Aeroflot, Intourist, Goskontser (the Soviet entertainment agency) and Vneshtorgbank (the Soviet external trade bank)."

He has signed an agreement with the French to open a consulate in Tbilisi, and intends to establish a network of honorary Georgian consuls in other countries. The Belgians have promised to start a commercial charter air service direct to Tbilisi (the only flights in are via Prague or Moscow). He is also hoping to open a direct telephone line through Turkey, to improve outside communications.

From January 1 1991, the Georgians have been promised total economic independence from Moscow, including the freedom to produce their own currency. With characteristic wit, they have given the premises previously occupied by the Institute of Marxism-Leninism to the Party of National Independence, and the Komsomol (Communist Youth Organisation) building is now an old soldiers' retirement home.

ELIZABETH ROBERTS

The museum has no postcards left to sell; the catalogue is too expensive to be restocked

Thunderbirds is still go, as Lady Penelope, Parker and the rest change formats

Recalling International Rescue

THE Thunderbirds are flying higher than ever before. Nothing holds them back: not even the fact that Lady Penelope, Parker and the five Tracy brothers cannot actually stand up. Nor the fact that these

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puppets, with their outsized heads, fool no one into believing that they are an international Rescue operation. The success of the perennially repeated television series, of the stage shows,

advertisements and videos, of the T-shirts and posters, proves that *Thunderbirds* are still "go" everywhere. This week they went into the music business. This was "Project 90", the official Gerry Anderson record — but not the official Sylvia and Gerry Anderson record.

The creators actually split about 15 years ago and forged separate careers. "It was a tragic end to a dynamic partnership," Ms Anderson says. *Thunderbirds* was one of a string of puppet shows, including *Fireball XL5*, *Supercar*, *Stingray* and, later, *Captain Scarlet*, in which she created the characters and he handled the machinery, devising that silver rocket, that green cargo carrier and that yellow underwater thingamajig.

The series was modelled on the James Bond adventures, with Lady Penelope as a female version of 007. "It was a bit radical having a woman in charge," Ms Anderson says. Particularly a woman with a stately home, a cockney chauffeur and a pink Rolls-Royce. In fact, the artist commissioned to go away for the weekend and come up with a look for Lady Penelope, modelled the puppet on her blonde creator with the husky Joan Greenwood voice — a voice still to be heard promoting commercials for car parts and a brewery, and soon to be heard again in a spin-off series

as Penelope re-appears with a fresh team.

This time she will be in animated form. "I'd hate to make more sophisticated puppets," Ms Anderson says. "It would lose all the old-fashioned charm of the television series." Nor does she share Mr Anderson's hopes for a live action feature film, with human actors. "I believe it is wrong to exploit *Thunderbirds*," she says.

But Thanderson, the *Thunderbird* fan club, is greedy for anything that can satisfy its addiction. Last month they held a convention. "It was full of hundreds of kids aged 30 to 40," says Damien Drake, of Forbidden Planet, the London shop which specialises in rare comics and sci-fi memorabilia. "They are reasonably insane individuals, who are completely gone on everything Gerry Anderson has ever done. In fact, the only children who ever come into the shop are ones with their parents pushing them saying: 'Go on, buy it. You'll love it.'" The most fanatical of the fans are from America. They buy anything up to £300 worth of goods at a time.

"*Thunderbirds* apparently cost something like £50,000 an episode," says David Lennox-Browne, a fan, aged 30, "but it looks like it was made on a budget of 14 shillings. That's why it's a cult. It's dreadful."

NICOLA MURPHY

A Times reader and his car are soon parted.



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Better a cardboard box than Thatcher City?

SIMON TOWNSELEY

A few years ago the beauty shop mentioned to me that she was homeless. She had taken up with some fellow who turned out to be no good and, sure enough, one day the police came. They sealed off their flat, padlocked the doors and turned her out. "The police even took away my underwear," she said. She was a decent woman, if a little thick when it came to men. She hadn't a penny to speak of. So I told her to move in with me for a bit, until she sorted herself out. I was a little embarrassed that I would be seen as a sort of shallow version of a caviar socialist. In fact, it worked very well. Some people are blessed with innate dignity, and she was one of them. We barely crossed each other's paths and my erratic hours were undisturbed. When she left my flat I missed her.



BARBARA AMIEL

Some people worry about children in Africa, others about cats. As for me, well, I have a soft spot for the homeless. I was 14 years old when I came back from school one day and saw all my possessions packed in a cardboard box next to the front door. My mother was very apologetic. "Your stepfather and I," she explained, "just can't deal with you any more, so you have to go." They had found me a room in a house on a council estate, and paid my rent till the end of the school term.

We lived in Hamilton, Ontario, then, and Canada was caught in a mean cycle of recession. My mother had emigrated to Canada in part to escape disapproval of a remarriage that broke religious and class taboos. But the work my stepfather had been promised in England did not materialise in Canada and now he was a young man with a ready-made family and no employment. I was a horrid little girl, always listening to classical music on the radio and lecturing my stepfather about his low tastes. I could not blame him for chucking me out, but I had never held a job and did not really know how I was going to make a go of it. When school ended that summer, they explained, I was on my own. They were going off to another city where my stepfather had work and my mother was pregnant again. They hoped I would be all right.

In fact, I was. I stayed a few months with Ken the garage mechanic and his wife with the thin dripping nose and white to match. They had a wretched son who used to tease me about my having a moustache. Then I

moved on. There were a succession of jobs working after school in fast food restaurants and on farms, factories and in department stores in the summers. Cheap labour does not lack job opportunities. My favourite job was working on the underwear counter in a Woolworth's store when I was 15. I had no bust and had never seen a brassiere. I spent one week's entire pay on a padded bra in the belief that boys were attracted to what a girl looked like rather than what she had. My error was manifest on my first date.

The truth was that after the hurt passed and I had cried a bit, after I had got over the fright of sleeping in cellars underneath the furnace pipes, I came to cherish my freedom. Not having parents around was a tremendous advantage. I was a wild child, of course, with no manners or domesticity, but there was nothing, I believed, that I could not do. Later on in life, I would find out that this was not entirely true. Something decent died in me, or perhaps was stillborn: I would never manage to create a successful family life. Still, I think the gods struck a very fair bargain.

I think about those years whenever I read about the problem of runaway children. I still have that soft spot for their homelessness. Oh, I know it's not the same. I had the tremendous advantage of spending the first dozen years of my life as a nice middle-class girl in north London, while some of the kids on our streets today have known only alcoholism and violence, poverty and dirt. But a lot of the runaways I have spoken to in London share feelings I know so well. It is marvellously liberating to be away from the constraints of parents. It is better to live in a cardboard box than a strictly supervised Salvation Army hostel which may want you to wash behind the ears or sing a hymn. But the question remains. A 15-year-old is a 15-year-old. He or she is a child, no matter how much more street-wise they are than we were. What are we, as a society, going to do with them?

The numbers of these homeless children are increasing. The magnitude of the problem is a direct consequence of certain social policies and social developments. Although we do not have any precise breakdown ethnically, socio-economically or racially on these children, I think it is probably fair to say that the majority of them will come from those sorts of families most affected by the direction our society



has taken vis-à-vis the family: that is, more of them will come from the single parent families which our social policies support and from communities which do not encourage loosely structured relationships. Many of these communities are minority cultures and we are afraid to criticise them lest we be seen as being prejudiced.

Mind you, we would have had a certain number of runaways, no matter what direction our society had taken. But the numbers will always vary according to the social factors, which can be anything. If we had a real depression now and there was genuine, widespread poverty rather than the relative poverty we have today, that, too, would increase the numbers. As it is, the numbers of runaways at the moment are increased by the utter destructiveness of our policies towards the family. We have undermined the family's authority

and reallocated its powers. Our school systems encourage children to demean their parents' values, while at the same time we have admonished parents not to discipline their children except in ways acceptable to the state. We have discouraged families through our tax laws and made illegitimate pregnancies acceptable through our benefit system.

Some of these changes are probably for the good, but whether they are or not, are they reversible in favour of policies that would strengthen the family? We could, for example, make divorce more difficult, rather than our current inclination to make it easier. I cannot embrace Auberon Waugh's suggestion for a punitive bachelor tax — fearing, as I do, a punitive spinster tax which I can ill afford — but I see his point. All the same, I simply do not think we can turn the clock back in this manner. And even if we could, it would take too

long to re-establish the cohesion of the family. Who, then, is going to act in loco parentis for these children living on London's streets? The answer to that is perfectly clear: it is going to be the state — the community — because it cannot be anyone else. How to do it is the only real question to be debated. Will it be done in a so-called "conservative manner", or will it be done by the so-called "liberal approach"? Will we support Mrs Thatcher in her £15 million programme to provide spankingly neat hostels for the homeless, who will be charged under vagrancy laws or the new "crime" of squatting if they don't move into Thatcher City? This will undoubtedly injure some people, but it might slow down and discourage the process of running away from home. Or will we tackle the 15-year-olds by giving them pocket money, counselling and other liberal mea-

sures which will make it more comfortable for some, but will only aggravate the problem?

I have no doubt that the conservative approach would have been worse for people like me, but probably better for most others. Anyone who has some inner resources and discipline, as well as a small ability to self-start at 15 years of age, will not thrive under Mrs Thatcher's schoolmarmish approach. The trouble is that we have so undermined the concept of self-reliance in our society that it is all but extinct among our young runaways. On the other hand, the liberal approach would have suited me to a t. Alas, I suspect it is hopeless for the sort of people who have only the urge to leave home and not the wits to get a job, a room to live in or to attend school. And while I admit that I have done absolutely no scientific study of the matter I have absolutely no doubt in my mind

that the helpless outnumber the self-reliant by nine to one.

Those people to whom Labour speaks today of giving pocket money, to make running away at 15 more easy, are very likely to be our peace disturbers and welfare charges tomorrow. I suppose we will tolerate the difficulties they cause for a time, but in the end we will have to crack down on them. The problem with too much liberalism is that eventually it leads to totalitarian-type measures — identity cards, and passports withheld, and mass conscription of bullies and hooligans into some kind of an army. How, we will ask, did it all happen?

The answer is simple: we could have avoided the whole mess if we had not diluted the family before we had something to put in its place. I suppose I shall have to brush up on contemporary vernacular and take a couple of the kids in.

Poetic justice for the maid

A new novel by Elizabeth Barrett Browning's biographer turns the spotlight on her unappreciated servant

The eminently Victorian tale of Elizabeth Barrett Browning is almost too well known to mean much. We know how the poet languished in her sick-room in Wimpole Street under the rule of a father who wanted none of his daughters to marry, least of all the ethereal invalid; how Robert Browning read and talked with her in the dim room; how the pair eloped to Italy, where she bore a son, became impassioned about the liberation of Italy, and won a name for advanced humanitarian thinking with verses such as "Aurora Leigh". We know she died in 1861 in Browning's arms, a symbol of woman's struggle towards emancipation.

Margaret Forster, as Elizabeth Barrett Browning's most recent biographer, knows the story well enough to have picked up more complicated, less romantic clues. So it is not surprising that having finished a decorous biography, Ms Forster composed a historical novel: not about the poet, but about her maid.

"Biography is such an anxious thing. You're worried about whether you got it right and did the character justice. It is a heavy responsibility. In fiction you are free as air."

She had, besides, spent four years living with Mrs Browning's shade and it is clear a certain irritation had built up, judiciously muffled in the formal account of her subject. "I kept trying to find out more about her maids. Crow and later, Wilson. Do you know, not one other biographer has ever bothered to find out Crow's first name?"

"The part Wilson played was so great over 16 years, and her own life was so amazing. I wanted to know about her. But I hate biographies which say things like 'Wilson must have thought... One shouldn't do that.'"

After the biography she resolved to give herself the leisurely treat of inventing the maid Wilson's life. "I thought I would do something clever. Perhaps Wilson would reveal the secret of Elizabeth's true relationship with her father: she might see evidence of bullying or incestuous moments. But I couldn't. I kept going back to the evidence."

The evidence, from the Brownings' own letters and papers, is story enough. Eliza-



Maid and mistress: from *The Barretts of Wimpole Street*

Elizabeth recovered strength enough to join her husband, Wilson who noticed Elizabeth's pregnancies (Mrs Browning was too spiritual to count days), nursed her miscarriages, tried to wean her off the laudanum which caused them, and finally witnessed the birth of her son, Pen.

Then the maid's own life unfolded: she had an affair with an Italian manservant, married him with the Brownings' blessing, and presumed on her mistress's humane sympathies to tolerate the fact that she was already pregnant. Yet she met a response of bloodcurdling chilliness: it was this, amply attested to in Browning letters, which first set Margaret Forster on the track of Wilson's right to have her life considered, too.

"It is easy to excuse Elizabeth by saying she was a woman of her time, but there were other mistresses who stood by their pregnant maids. The Brownings just wouldn't. It was 'What will I do without

you?', and never mind the child. The woman who wrote about the plight of women in 'Aurora Leigh' ought to have been able to pass that test, and she didn't."

Instead, Wilson was sent to her sister for her confinement. Her husband remained the couple's manservant, and when the chance came for Wilson to rejoin the household Mrs Browning said: "He is a fine child, Wilson. You will miss him if you are resolved to come with us."

Poor Wilson: her need for a living wage and contact with her husband won the fight, and her son Oreste stayed with her sister for six years, while the maid acted as nurse to her mistress's child. She also attempted to get paid a little more, so she could save towards independence, but the Brownings were notoriously tight with money.

Wilson had a second child, and finally opened a boarding-house in Florence, her husband continuing to travel as Browning's servant until their marriage drifted apart.

Margaret Forster offers some excuses. "Wilson," she says judiciously, "did become a nuisance, dragging herself around pregnant when Elizabeth wanted to be looked after. She had postnatal depression and some religious mania in the end. But she was separated from her first baby because of the Brownings' attitude, so all the same..." All the same, the portrayal will cause chagrin to worshippers of Elizabeth Barrett.

Where the story bites is in its treatment of the central relationship: mistress and confidential servant. Elizabeth professes "real friendship" but the maid is uneasy, even as she is charmed: the financial core of such a relationship corrupts the best of intentions. It is not irrelevant that Margaret Forster has raised three children in her marriage to Humer Davies, and written 19 books, without employing even a cleaner.

There is a happy ending: Wilson did get looked after in the end — by Pen, the Brownings' son. It is the children who (never having paid her) are nicest to their old nanny.

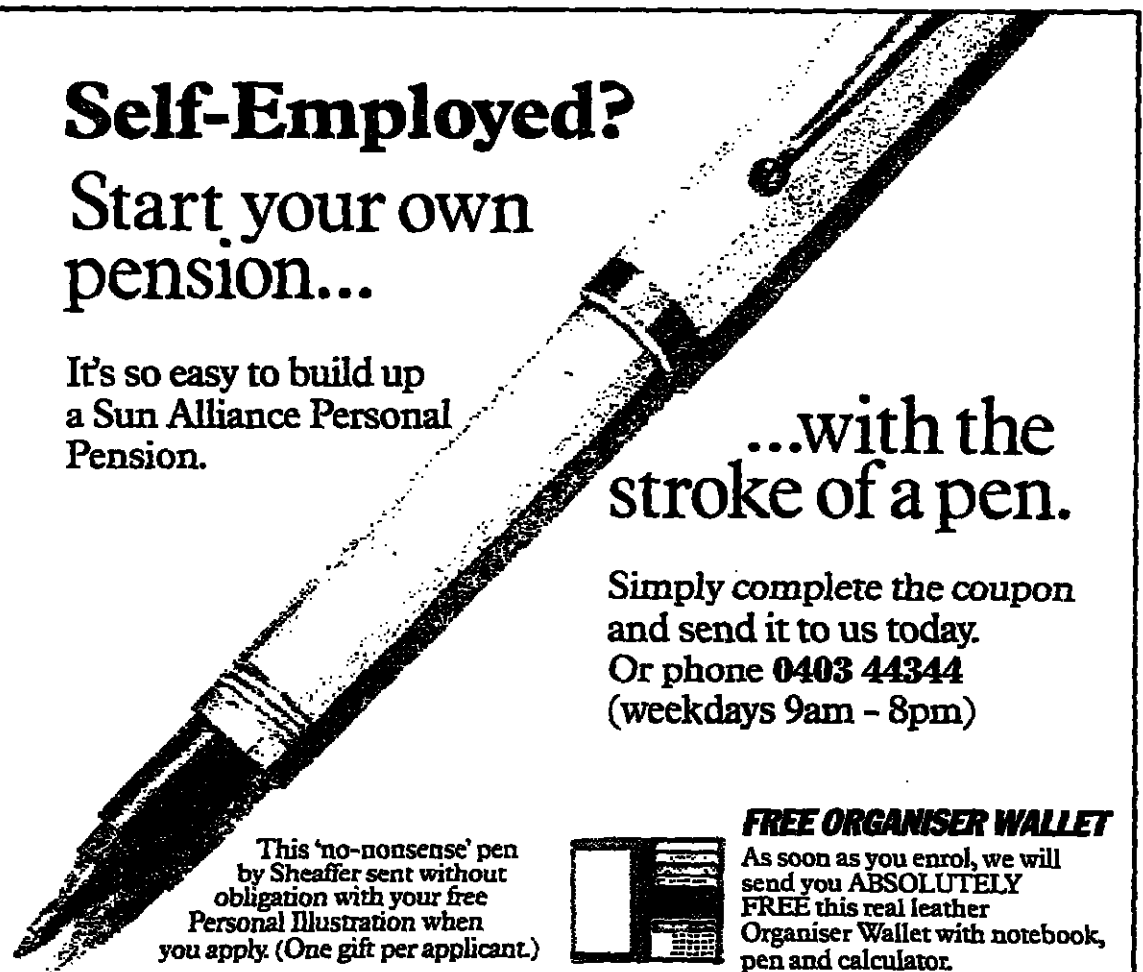
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CLASSICAL MUSIC: ALMEIDA FESTIVAL

A wide trawl but few big catches

Paul Griffiths reviews first performances at London's most ambitious music festival

Perhaps it is no more than masochism, but one has the nagging feeling that all is not well when the best piece in a concert of new music turns out to be a version of "There's a hole in my bucket", sung in German. The setting was by Sofia Gubaidulina, the second of her *Zwei Lieder*, and it showed the talents that go to make an expert composer of music for animated films. It also showed the talents of the mezzo, Fiona Kimm, whose beautiful ripe tone and arch delivery contributed a lot to this enjoyably ludicrous occasion.

Certainly, the spirits needed lifting. Gubaidulina's songs, the first of them serious and dismal, came in the middle of a programme of Soviet music performed by the Nash Ensemble under Lionel Friend. The programme had got off to a bad start with Elena Firsova's pointless and spun-out shadowings of snippets from Brahms and Mahler in her *Music for 12*.

Then Edison Denisov's *Sextet* perhaps showed the origins of this style of vacuous imitative doodling. Finally, for anyone who was not already thoroughly depressed, there was Shostakovich's late cycle of Blok settings, in which Jill Gomez may have been encouraged to exaggerate the expression for an audience unacquainted with texts, translations or any clue about the contents of the poems.

Somewhere Christopher van Kampen had given an interestingly strenuous account of Arvo Part's *Frates*, in the version for cello and piano.

This whole programme was a follow-up to earlier Almeida Festivals in which Soviet music has been prominent, and it is good to find the new team maintaining the old Almeida specialities, another of which is the Arditi Quartet, making the third of five appearances the next night. But I guess that the real musical effect of perestroika will be to uncover a host of composers beyond those whom British musicians have discovered on trips to Moscow. I hope that the Almeida will have an ear to this potentially fertile ground.

The Arditi programme, a package of duos, was also a bit of a disappointment. It is not that one expects too much of Wolfgang Rihm and Toru Takemitsu, but the former's *Duomolog* for violin and cello was brutally manufactured in its long opening on a three-note idea, and the latter's *Rocking Mirror Daybreak* for two violins was grey. Another Gubaidulina piece, *Rejoice* for violin and cello, also made little impression.

However, the evening was redeemed by a magnificent, proud

Luigi Nono duet for violins with the partly enigmatic title "*Hay que caminar*" (*sognando KOE 204*). The first words come from an inscription the composer found in Toledo, bleakly informing travellers that they have a long way to go and there are no roads. Hence a piece in which the two musicians make their separate journeys, often pacing in alternation from one hard-won, long-sustained note to the next, and making physical journeys from one to another of three music stands.

The acoustic and dramatic points were well made in this dimly-lit brick shell of a theatre. So were the musical points in a concentrated performance by Irvine Arditi and David Albert. Nono's recent death has given the Almeida's focus on him a memorial poignancy, particularly when this violin duo, dated to last year, must be one of the last things he wrote. But music of this resolution will survive.

I am less sure about the music of Jean-Claude Eloy, who made a name for himself, a quarter of a century ago, as the musical child of Boulez and Varèse. After that he went east, and it seems he is still there, though bodily present in the Almeida Theatre to manipulate the sound for a continuous 90-minute programme that began with *Galaxie I*, a tape manipulation of bell sounds into vast organ drones, and continued with two pieces from what promises (if that is quite the word) to be a vast cycle of *Liberations*.

Eloy is starting this project with a collection of portraits of feminist saints, from which we heard *Butsumyoe* and *Sappho Hiketsi*. The former was a long narrative chanted in Japanese (again no texts were provided) by Yumi Nara, with occasional punctuation from light percussion or the voice of Fatima Miranda, whose weirdulations then dominated the much shorter *Sappho* piece.

Nara's long solo occasionally suggested the Japanese theatre, but in general had a very Western pathos; *Miranda*'s yelps and trillings came nowhere near the violence and sensuality that Birtwistle and Xepakis have found in plumbing Greek antiquity.

So, a not altogether wonderful few days at the Almeida. But next week looks a lot more encouraging, with a much stronger Arditi programme on Tuesday and two concerts by the punchy trio Accroche Note. The long-awaited opening of Gerald Barry's tantalising opera *The Intelligence Park* will open on Friday.

In next Tuesday's classical column, Richard Morrison reports on possible links between British and Russian music colleges

AWARDS

Rewards for the daring

MARILYN KINOWILL

A peripatetic opera company devoted to crossing cultural and ethnic barriers; a London theatre which has spearheaded the brilliant explosion of contemporary dance; a rural society devoted to promoting and placing sculpture in the Lake District: these are among the five category winners of the 1990 Prudential Awards for the Arts, announced yesterday. The Awards, now in their second year, give £25,000 to each category winner. An overall winner (announced next November) receives a further £75,000.

The winners are selected on the basis of their innovation, creativity, excellence and accessibility, and provide a useful guide to the current success stories in British arts. Significantly, none of the awards goes to a national company. "The nationals are so beleaguered that they find it difficult to make any creative thrust," said Sir Roy Strong, chairman of the visual arts judges, yesterday. "We are becoming the cultural banana republic of the EEC." Below, *The Times* offers a description of each winner's work.

Music: Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Society

Four years ago, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra was down and almost out. The abolition of Merseyside County Council looked likely to precipitate the closure of Philharmonic Hall. An artistic city seemed to have too many urgent social problems to worry about supporting a symphony orchestra. Standards, under a succession of uninspiring music directors in the early 1980s, had slipped.

The turnaround has been astonishing. This year the RLPO celebrates its 150th anniversary with morale and musicianship both restored. The credit goes partly to a strong and resourceful management, but largely to the Czech conductor Libor Pešek, an ebullient and imaginative musician who has brought a touch of charisma and a great deal of hard graft to the business of orchestra-building. The RLPO's repertoire now spans as many different cultures as its growing audience. Pešek is conducting all Mahler's symphonies in the next two seasons, but Paul McCartney is writing a work for the orchestra, and Philharmonic Hall has thrown open its venerable doors

to jazz and ethnic music. William Hill, incidentally, is quoting the RLPO as 7-4 favourite to win the big £75,000 prize in November.

RICHARD MORRISON

Theatre: Theatre Royal, Stratford East

The irony about the Theatre Royal receiving an award from Prudential is that this pioneering theatre is famous for failing to get sponsorship, though it has also just won an ABSA Business Sponsorship Incentive Scheme award. In a way, the chief sponsor is the theatre's own actors and writers: top weekly wage for an actor is £160, yet the likes of Miriam Karlin and Anita Dobson still appear, while playwrights such as Barrie Keeffe and Alan Plater are taking commissions from Philip Hedley, the artistic director, for £1,800. The theatre no longer has a permanent rep company, as in the great days of Joan Littlewood and Gerry Raffles, but Hedley believes that its radical tradition still flourishes.

The theatre has won, say the judges, because of its successful determination to stage only new work. Hedley's eight plays a year are all either commissioned or British premieres. The judges also



Scene from Patrick Prior's play, *Revolutionary Peasants*, at the Theatre Royal, Stratford East

commended the theatre's policy of bringing in the community's burgeoning Afro-Asian audience. "I think we can boast more black faces in our audience than any other theatre," said Hedley.

SIMON TAIT

Dance: Place Theatre

The Place is one of London's least-known venues, a tiny and unassuming theatre tucked away in a sidestreet in Euston. But under the imaginative direction of John Ashford, it has become the foremost showcase for contemporary dance in Britain. When Ashford, a 46-year-old former theatre director, arrived at the Place in 1986 he found the 240-seat theatre (an offshoot of the Contemporary Dance Trust organisation) still in its infancy as a low-key perfor-

mance space for experimental dance, mime and theatre. During the next four years, he doubled the amount of time devoted to dance performance, creating a dance house with a reputation for innovation and the development of new talent (DV8 and the Cholmondeleys in particular).

His inspired artistic policy, coupled with Diaghilev-like skills as an impresario, produced annual seasons of contemporary dance — such as *Spring Loaded*, April in Paris and, most recently, the *Turning World* — that featured international contemporary artists alongside some of the most exciting young British companies. Surviving on a tiny annual budget of £79,000, Ashford's Place Theatre has worked wonders in sustaining what is virtually a laboratory of contemporary dance experimentation. Even if it occasionally promises more than it delivers, it keeps alive the belief that artists have the right to fail in the challenge to succeed.

DEBRA CRABE

Opera: City of Birmingham Touring Opera

There has been a remarkable widening in the opera audience over the last ten years, but opera-goers are still overwhelmingly white and middle-class. Here is a company, unhindered by being tied to a single venue, which is hoping to change that. The three-year-old CBO's most famous coup to date was to commission and perform a new opera by the celebrated sitar-player Ravi Shankar: *Ghanashyam*, a mildly moralising parable sung partly in Hindi, about the dangers of drug or alcohol abuse.

Graham Vick, one of the best opera producers in Britain, is the

CBO's artistic director. His stated intent is to tour opera (in cleverly scaled-down form) where conventional companies cannot afford to go, and to attract audiences which might ordinarily shun opera houses. There is also a strong commitment to involve ethnic communities in the Midlands and north of England. CBO's next big project is a tour of *The Ring* cycle, bringing Wagner into the school halls and community centres of the nation.

RICHARD MORRISON

Visual Arts: Grizedale Society

The judges chose this "green art" project at Ambleside in the Lake District in preference to the Museum of Modern Art in Oxford, Dulwich Picture Gallery, and the borough of Gateshead for what it has done with its Newcastle galleries. The Grizedale Society had to be strong to beat that field, and it was the extraordinary foresight, 20 years ago, of the then chief forester, Bill Grant, which gets the Society the £25,000 to create new artists' residences.

First he converted an old hay-loft into a theatre, then in 1977 he created the Grizedale Forest Sculpture project to encourage artists to work in the landscape. The Grizedale initiative, of which Grant is now director, gives immediate and sometimes startling access to those rambling along the Silurian Trail — a 12-mile forest trail on which most of the pieces are sited. But it has also invented what is almost a new medium: sculptors working in the landscape. The judges praised "a leap of the imagination that has enriched our perception and understanding of art and the landscape".

SIMON TAIT

GALLERIES

Landscapes in the shadow of Vesuvius

As British football fans flood into Naples, John Russell Taylor suggests that the city has at least one exhibition worth viewing

Some time before the great British love affair with Florence began, Naples was the place. Favoured as a vital stopping-place of the Grand Tour in the days of its glory as capital of the Two Sicilies, it welcomed endless milords and a stream of artists eager to catch Vesuvius in action (or at least, like Wright of Derby, make believe that they had) and to depict the rocky shore, the gracefully curving bay, or the elegant scattering of medieval and Renaissance castles overlooking the trim 18th-century palaces.

Consequently, a show like *In the Shadow of Vesuvius: Naples in the 15th to the 19th Century*, grandly installed in the newly renovated Castel Sant'Elmo until July 29, can be relied upon to appeal to the British taste, not least because it includes a very healthy proportion of British paintings or paintings borrowed from British collections. This show is obviously one of many moves planned to end all that in a *rinascimento* which will restore Naples to what is seen locally as its rightful pre-eminence.

Anything, internal evidence in the show supports the theory of a psychological decline occasioned by the city's reduction to provincial status. The earliest paintings concentrate mainly on the panoply of power: walls and battlements, rich inhabitants.

As the 18th century progressed, the French came, most notably Vernet and Hubert Robert. By the

time William Hamilton was British ambassador to Naples, the trickle of British had become a flood. Richard Wilson, Wright of Derby (neglected because most of his prime Neapolitan pictures are still on tour in the large one-man show), Robert Cozzens and the extraordinary Thomas Jones who painted here most of those little oils-on-paper of peeling walls and house-backs hung with washing.

Naples, of course, had its own native or near-native painters, such as Antonio Joli, the "Neapolitan Canaletto", originally from Modena, who poured out pictures of festive occasions and buzzing street activity. And in the very last room of the show is Turner, making the place look more mistily glamorous and atmospheric than anyone.

Italian Divisionism is not so obviously to British taste. But in the Royal Academy's great *Post-Impressionism* exhibition, 10 years ago, one picture stole the limelight, on account of its extraordinary quality and complete unexpectedness. It was "The Fourth Estate", painted in 1901 by Giuseppe Pellizza da Volpedo: a vast panorama of the peasantry, peaceably but irresistibly advancing. The most extraordinary thing about it was its mastery use on this giant scale of a technique which, in a French context, we would call pointillism.

Pellizza was a leader of the group of Italian artists at the end of the 19th century known as Divisionisti, because in painting

they divided their colour on quasi-scientific principles, so that the individual brush-strokes of different colours would fuse optically to produce effects of great subtlety and delicacy. We have heard so little of them because the Italians virtually skipped Impressionism altogether, jumping straight to Post-Impressionism.

To such ignorance we can now find the perfect correction at the other end of Italy from Naples, at the Museo d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea in Trento, where until July 15 the biggest ever show of *Il Divisionismo Italiano* can be seen in all its glory. It begins, in effect, with Segantini, the only one of these artists who has ever had much of a reputation outside Italy — largely on account of his appealing Alpine-pastoral locations rather than his experiments with divided colours. His other side is a sort of eerie symbolism, involving otherworldly *femmes fatales* and guardian angels.

The slightly later generation, especially Pellizza and Morbelli, goes in for the odd combination of divisionist technique and socio-political subject-matter. Later, things get wilder. For Previsti and Chini the skies are full of phantoms, and there is another anomalous-seeming combination, of divisionist technique and symbolic subject-matter. With any luck London will see edited versions of both the Trento and the Naples shows early next year at the Accademia Italiana.

CRITIC'S CHOICE: GALLERIES

LEGEND IN HIS OWN MIND: Stephen Tennant was not even famous for being famous, except among a small clique. He saw himself as a poet, he saw himself as a painter, and most other people saw him as a dabbler, a love object or a freak. The show whimsically summons up a vanished way of life, but actual art is thin on the ground. Michael Parkin, 11 Motcomb Street, SW1 (071-235 8144), Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm, Sat, 10am-1pm, until July 13.

PRINTS FOR PLEASURE: Astonishing to think that David Hockney has been making prints for a quarter of a century. There are those who think it is what he does best. Certainly this little retrospective

contains much to charm and surprise. Berkeley Square Gallery, 23a Bruton Street, W1 (071-493 7539), Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm, Sat, 10am-2pm, until July 7.

ARCHITECTURAL: Edward Allington is a sculptor whose work constantly aspires to the condition of architecture, or at least makes constant reference to it, directly or allegorically. Seven examples here, three related to a commission in Scarborough. Lisson Gallery, 67 Lisson Street, NW1 (071-724 2739), Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm, Sat, 10am-1pm, until July 7.

PLAYING POSSUM: It is not just the name which makes Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarr stick in the mind. He was

probably the first Aboriginal artist we encountered, but it is now clear that he is also the best. Rebecca Hossack, 35 Windmill Street, W1 (071-400 3559), Mon-Sat, 11am-7pm, until July 21.

CRAFTY ART: Enid Marx has been working to perfect her own style for some 65 years now: a long time when you consider she had it right from the start. Fabric and paper designs, wonderful prints, strongly adorable: paintings, line and delicate. Sally Hunter, 11 Halkin Arcade, Motcomb Street, SW1 (071-235 0934), Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm, until July 13.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR



Detail from Voltaire's *Eruzione del Vesuvio al chiaro di luna*

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ARTS

ALBUMS

Deserving or not, it begins again

Dusty Springfield: *Reputation* (Parlophone PCSD 111)

Dusty Springfield has been engineering comeback albums at four-yearly intervals ever since her optimistically-titled 1978 collection *It Begins Again*. However, it has taken the good offices of the Pet Shop Boys, whose initial collaboration with her produced the 1987 hit "What Have I Done to Deserve This?", to break the mould of the Sixties' has-been in which her work and image had become cast.

Neil Tennant, in particular, idolised Springfield in his youth, and has worked assiduously to put her in touch with his own modern pop audience. Indeed, the whole of the second side of *Reputation* is co-produced and nearly all written by the Pet Shop Boys.

Here the material ranges with surprising ease from the Sixties revivalism of the old Coffin-King song, "I Want to Stay Here", to the quasi-hard core electro feel of "Occupied Your Mind". The hits "In Private" and "Nothing Has Been Proved" have a pleasantly conspiratorial familiarity, but the highlight is "Daydreaming", where Springfield embarks on one of those deadpan Anglicised raps with which Tennant made his name, before breaking into a deliciously flyaway chorus.

On side one, the results are less consistent as a variety of writers and producers have their way with the great Springfield voice. My favourite is Dan Hartman's production of "Send it to Me", a song with a tad more soul and saucer than other tracks, which suffer in the main from a production-line feel.

Still, there is a polished, sure-footed air to the project and at a mere 51 years old, Springfield is looking radiant. Could this be a Tina Turner story in the making?

Sonic Youth: Goo (David Geffen Company 7590-24297-1)

Ever mindful of its hallowed status as torchbearers and *enfants terribles* of New York's art-rock avant-garde, Sonic Youth has taken pains to ensure that its first properly-funded major label album looks and sounds as cheap as possible. The comic-book trash aesthetic which dominates Raymond Pettibone's cover artwork complements a classic junk-noise

production job on songs which artfully suck the lifeblood out of various "alternative" musical genres from psychedelia to punk.

With its weedy drum sound and fluffy guitar mix, "Dirty Boots" would not seem out of place on Jefferson Airplane's trippy magnum opus *Surrealistic Pillow*, but for the want of a decent vocal. At the other end of the spectrum, "Mary-Christ" and "Titanium Exposure" rejoice in the pounding tom-toms and frantically pedalling guitar rhythms that underpin Richard Hell at his peak.

"More", a great belter of a song, dissolves half-way through into an end-of-the-world broadside of squalling guitar feedback, while "Scooter and Jimmy" is nothing but a short burst of revving guitar noise, which sounds like motorbikes speeding on a wall of death. For all this, *Goo* is a lot less weird and a lot better focused than the joyless meanderings of previous outings such as *The Waxy Machine*. As always, meaning is elusive, but when the band hits its stride, as on "My Friend Goo", there is a refreshing vitality at the music's core.

Cameo: Real Men...Wear Black (Atlantic Artists 846 297-1)

Four years after the success of *Hard Up* (and two after the failure of *Machismo*), Larry Blackmon is still peddling the same synthetic gun-shot snare sound. He is also peddling the same minimalist funk-rhythm track, the same mildly outé mixture of rap and raunch, the same two chords in fact pretty much the same songs in all but for the title and words, recycled as if his music has become harnessed to some huge creative tape loop.

When the lyrics are not espousing the familiar feel-good, think-positive, party animal routines, a measured amount of concerned social commentary creeps in, but clearly this is not Blackmon's forte. "Teenage girls dropping their drawers/And the parents wonder just what is the cause", he opines in "Get Paid".

It may come as a relief to know that, if the cover photograph is anything to go by, real men have given up wearing red copdies, at least for the time being.

DAVID SINCLAIR

ROCK

Cults do not make cash

Steve Turner on why Britain no longer leads in the international world of rock

In 1983, a House of Commons motion congratulated "Culture Club, The Police, Duran Duran, and other British stars on their success at the Grammy awards." *Rolling Stone* magazine produced a special "England Swing" issue, with a cover portrait of Boy George. Two years later, British rock acts accounted for an extraordinary 35 per cent of *Billboard's* American album and singles charts.

Those heady days are gone. According to recently published BPI (British Phonographic Industry) figures, the British share of that same chart has steadily declined to 19 per cent.

This week, only one UK artist features in the Top 15 of the American singles chart (Phil Collins). Three Britons feature in the albums chart (Collins, Billy Idol and Depeche Mode). Perhaps more worrying for the British industry, half of the UK Top 10 is currently taken up by non-British artists.

This pattern has been duplicated in other parts of the world. In 1985, British acts occupied a 40-per-cent share of the charts in Australia and Canada. This has since been reduced to 31 per cent and 24 per cent respectively.

Jeremy Silver, of the BPI, urges caution in interpreting the statistics, pointing out that the calculation is based only on the Top 20, and that foreign charts are often compiled in a less than scientific way. The Japanese chart was such a mystery that it was left out of the BPI survey. Nevertheless, they confirm a suspicion that, despite the recent American success of Lisa Stansfield, Britain is losing its cutting edge in the international market.

The main difficulty is that not enough big names were built up during the 1980s. For example, almost all the acts heralded by *Rolling Stone* in 1983 as the "second British invasion" have since either broken up (Culture Club, Police, Madness), stalled (Human League, Eurythmics), or become a spent force (Duran Duran).

Heavy metal, a genre almost exclusively developed in Britain during the 1970s by acts such as

Led Zeppelin, Deep Purple and Black Sabbath, is now led by American groups. "There has been no major contribution from Britain for some considerable time," says Geoffrey Baron, editor of *Kerrang* magazine. "Indicative of that is the fact that the annual Monsters of Rock festival held at Castle Donington, which was started as a celebration of British rock, has now been completely taken over by America. This year, the headline act is Whitesnake, which has one British member, and the support acts are Aerosmith and Poison."

The British music industry profile is kept up by acts such as The Who, Elton John and Paul McCartney: fine old characters and great crowd-pullers, but no longer able to deliver albums that sell in huge volumes. Nor can they today be counted as powerful musical influences. Pink Floyd, still one of the world's most popular touring bands, has not recorded since 1987. Dire Straits' last album, *Brothers in Arms*, came out in 1985. Sinead O'Connor and U2, although signed to British companies and often regarded as part of the British influence, are actually part of the Irish invasion.

"How many British acts were unknown in 1980 but entered the 1990s as super-stars?" asks Jonathan Morris, corporate affairs spokesman for CBS records. "The answer is one: George Michael. The only other possible contender is Phil Collins, but he was already established as a member of Genesis when he made his first solo album. During the same period America produced Bon Jovi, Prince, and Madonna."

CBS's own situation usefully illustrates the problem. George Michael is its major star, but then there is a huge gap between him and his closest contenders, Paul Young and Sade, neither of whom could be considered as international superstars.

The company's most recent big hope was Terence Trent D'Arby, an American living in Britain. He produced a successful debut album, but followed it up with a commercial disaster. Before that had been Bros, who failed to crack America and have since been



George Michael, a survivor from the 1980s, in an industry where Britain is losing its cutting edge

eclipsed in the teen-market by Philadelphia's New Kids On The Block.

"The explosion of dance music has a lot to do with Britain's isolation," says Gordon Charton, the CBS A & R man responsible for signing both Bros and Deacon Blue. "The rest of the world isn't as fascinated by dance music as we are. The only other places which have really taken to it are Australia and Holland."

Another reason, he believes, is an increasing feeling among record companies outside Britain and America that they want to develop their own talent and sell it world-wide. Countries that were

once considered to be wastelands of rock, such as Australia, Holland, Italy, and France, are now producing acts with international reputations.

Some hopes of a third British invasion of America are being pinned on a cluster of groups from Manchester, which include the Stone Roses and Inspiral Carpets. There has already been a high degree of American media interest in them, which will culminate next month in a *Newsweek* feature. Tony Wilson, boss of Factory Records, is currently concentrating on breaking his band Happy Mondays into America.

Wilson, who argues that Brit-

ain's reduced influence over the past two years has come about because it was developing its own musical explosion, likes to draw comparisons between contemporary Manchester and Memphis in 1956, or San Francisco in 1967. "Our explosion is over," he says. "While America has been taken up with Paula Abdul and Janet Jackson, we have been off doing our own thing. Now the new groups not only dominate the charts, but the new style of music is starting to dominate the charts. England has already been conquered. The great question is: will we sell it to the world?"

CRITICS' CHOICE: ROCK, JAZZ AND WORLD MUSIC

ROCK

THE ROLLING STONES: They have come through the toughest of nearly three decades at the top of the heap with honour intact. The current "Urban Jungle" show features material from every stage of the group's career played out beneath an imposing canopy of scaffolding, walkways and corrugated dayglo flits designed by Mark Fisher. When it comes to the ergonomics of grandstand stadium rock, the Stones do it best. *Wembley Stadium, Middlessex* (081-900 1234), Wed, gates 4pm, £22.50.

THE SILVER CLEF AWARD WINNERS SHOW KNEBORTH 90: Quite the most civilised line-up of old guard acts to be found anywhere this summer, proceeds the following order: Tears For Fears; Status Quo; Cliff Richard and the Shadows; Robert Plant (winner of this year's award); Phil Collins and Genesis; Paul McCartney; Pink Floyd; "supergroup" featuring Eric Clapton, Elton John and Mark Knopfer. No tickets available at the time of writing. *Knebworth Park, near Stevenage, Hertfordshire* (Travel information: 0898 345092), tomorrow, 9am-11pm, £30.

GEORGE CLINTON: The outrageously flamboyant "godfather of funk" returns with another dance-or-die display of ham showmanship and psychedelic funk eccentricity. *Barrowlands, 244 Gallowgate, Glasgow* (041-226-4679), Thurs, 7.30pm, £10.10.

LITTLE FEAT: Although only a shadow of the original Geoff Beck-led band, the five original members, plus vocalist Craig Fuller and guitarist Fred Tackett, still manage to kick up a storm of syncretised Southern-fried funk. *HammerSmith Odeon, Queen Caroline Street, London W6* (081-748 4081), tonight, 7.30pm, £9.50-£10.50.

WILDLIFE: London guitar trio blessed with a super-abundance of talent and imagination. Their only problem is deciding which way to turn: snatches of jazz, pop, and even barbershop harmony leaven an intelligent bluesy, heavy rock attack.

Old Fire Station Arts Centre, George Street, Oxford (0865 794491), tomorrow, 9pm, £4.50.

FISH: Ex-Marillion crooner whose preposterous *Vigil* in a *Wilderness of Mirrors* album has proved a steady seller since its release last year. *Poole Arts Centre, Kingsland Road* (0202 885222), Mon, 7.30pm, £8.50. *Cornwall College, Truro Bay, St Austell* (0726 814004), Tues, 7.30pm, £5. *Aylesbury Civic Centre, Market Square* (0296 66009), Wed, 7.30pm, £8.

DAVID SINCLAIR

JAZZ

GLASGOW INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL: A sprawling but handsome roster mixes the old, the new and the merely trendy, exemplified by Branford Marsalis (Sun), Iain Ballamy (tomorrow) and the Big Boy Nouveau Band of trumpeter Maynard Ferguson (Thurs). Various venues (information: 041-227 5511), from tonight until July 8.

SHEPWAY JAZZ 'N' BLUES: Barbara Thompson opens the proceedings tonight at the Leas Cliff Hall with a set by her fusion band *Paraphernalia*. Later attractions are Maynard Ferguson, Stephens Grange, Morrissey-Mullen and the Cmax Blues Band. Various venues, Folkestone (information: 0303 53193), until July 7.

WARREN VACHE: While he lacks the fashion accessories, the American cornetist is a superbly expressive mainstream soloist. *Pizza Express, 10 Dean Street, London W1* (071-439 8722), tonight, Wed, 9.30pm, £6. *Pizza Express, 32 East Street, Maidstone* (0622 883540), Thurs, 8.30pm, £5.50.

MILES DAVIS: The boast from the Glasgow concert organisers - that Davis "sells more records than many rock bands" - is an apt comment on the great man's current approach. *HammerSmith Odeon, Queen Caroline Street, London W6* (081-748 4081), tomorrow, Sun, £18-£25; *Glasgow International Jazz Festival, SECC*

(information: 041-227 5511), Tues, 7.30pm, £12.50-£25.

HORACE SILVER: Though he has an endless supply of Blue Note classics up his sleeve, the pianist has a habit of finding space for more contemporary and less noteworthy tunes inspired by his religious beliefs. *Ronnie Scott's, 47 Frith Street, London W1* (071-439 0747), Mon to July 14, 9.30pm, Mon-Thurs £10 (members £2), Fri-Sat £12 (members £16).

LOUIS ARMSTRONG ANNIVERSARY CONCERT: In its 21st year, the annual tribute features comet player Digby Fairweather & the Alex Welsh Newborn Band. Seventy-five year-old George Chisholm makes a guest appearance. *Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1* (071-928 8800), Tues, 7.45pm, £5-£10.

OLIVER JONES: A solo recital by the Canadian pianist, steadily emerging from the shadow of his compatriot Oscar Peterson. Rousing gospel-based rags are amply compensated for occasionally busy ballad medleys. *Corner House, Heaton Road, Newcastle* (091-265 9602), Thurs, 8.30pm, £4.50.

MARLBOROUGH FESTIVAL: The four-day jazz segment opens with the delicate fusion band led by Jimmy "Jazz On A Summer's Day" Guiffre and continues with performances by Humphrey Lyttelton, Oliver Jones, and Lillian Boult, among others. Various venues (information: 0672 514716), Thurs to July 8.

CLIVE DAVIS

WORLD MUSIC

FRANK CHICKENS: These two ambassadors for the Japanese art of Karaoke present another DIY evening of sing-a-long embarrassment. *Mean Fiddler Acoustic Room, High Street, London NW10* (081-961 5450), tomorrow, 8pm, £3.

PENAAZ MASANI: Young, highly-acclaimed singer of ghazals - poems set to music - who has enjoyed great

popularity in India; joined by London-based ghazal singer Shankar Das. *Montgomery Theatre, Sheffield* (0226 285003), tonight, 7.30pm, £3. *Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1* (071-928 8800), tomorrow, 7.45pm, £5-£12. *Newcastle Playhouse, Haymarket, Newcastle-upon-Tyne* (091-232 7079), Sun, 6pm, £3 or family tickets £10.

HUELAS: Five musicians from Ecuador who play South American acoustic instruments. *West End Centre, Queen's Road, Aldershot* (0252 330040), tonight, 8.30pm, £4.50.

SUNSPASH: A strong bill which mixes established reggae artists Bunny Wailer and Steel Pulse with newer stars like Sanchez and Skengdon. Also playing are Zimbabwe's Shundu Boys and Manchester's Yargo. *Hough End, Princess Parkway, Manchester* (061-236 7076), tomorrow, midday-9pm, £12.50 in advance.

ISANG BOND: Dutch-based group from The Gambia, currently drawing upon their country's traditions after

earlier phases of disco, pop and international cover versions. They share the bill with UK-based group, African Dawn. *Town & Country 2, Highbury Corner, London N1* (071-700 5716), Wed, 7.30pm, £5.

JOHN CHIBADURA: Zimbabwe's biggest selling local artist. Chibadura was a goat herder before settling for a musical life. He and his group, The Tembo Brothers, play a relaxed version of the typical Zimbabwe sound. *Bass Clef, Coronet Street, London N1* (071-729 2476), tomorrow, 8.30pm, £7.

INTI ILLIMANI: Leading lights of the pan-Latin style known as Nueva Cancion. This group of Chilean exiles combines folkloric interpretations of Andean traditions with political lyrics. Also performing is the celebrated Harmonia guatemalteca *Paco Peña*, in company with John Williams. *Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2* (071-638 8891), tonight and tomorrow, 7.45pm, £8.50-£18.50.

DAVID TOOP



Dusty Springfield: Ranges from Sixties' revivals to hard-core hits

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A-Z GUIDE TO ROCK

Part 35 of David Sinclair's collectors' A-Z, a guide to the essential albums of the most enduring performers of rock. To qualify for inclusion in this series, an act

must have sustained a recording career of at least 10 years, and have mustered at least one decent album during that time. The entries are designed to be pasted

onto index cards and stored in a 6in by 4in filing box, available from most good stationery shops, to form an instant guide to the hits and misses of rock history.

RANDY NEWMAN

He has accumulated a tremendous fund of critical acclaim, but Randy Newman has so far avoided popular detection in Britain save for the merest blip on the screen at the time of his sole US hit, "Short People". That irritating and misunderstood satire comes from *Little Criminals* (1977), the album which best sums up the pithy narrative style, waspish humour and heavy irony that are the hallmarks of Newman's writing. For all the eloquence of his lyrics, Newman's aural drawl - "the voice of a Jewish kid from LA who grew up in the desert", as critic Robert Christgau described it - has not done him any favours, and his biggest hits have been performed by other artists, notably "Simon Smith and his Amazing Dancing Bear" (Alan Price) and "Mama Told Me Not to Come" (Three Dog Night). If nothing else, the barmy characters and vivid observations which pepper an album like *Good Ol' Boys* (1974) bring relief from the endless introspection that besets most Californian singer-songwriters of Newman's ilk.

NEW ORDER



Pithy: Newman

Despite the recent No 1, "World in Motion", New Order remains a curiously supercilious organisation, at pains to keep itself divorced from the mainstream. Having stuck defiantly in Manchester with the independent Factory label, the group has nevertheless exercised a singularly influential role by its untutored application of synthesizers, sequencers and mechanized disco rhythms to a post-punk, art-rock foundation. A line can be traced directly from the hypnotic dance club formula of "Blue Monday" (for a period the best-selling record ever released in 12-inch format) and other tracks on *Power Corruption and Lies* (1983) to the trance-inducing mantras of later-day *Acid House*. Crawling unsteadily from the wreckage of Joy Division, after the suicide of vocalist Ian Curtis in 1980, New Order's early work was overshadowed by the phenomenal success of "Love Will Tear Us Apart". But all their 12-inch singles from 1981 to 1987, neatly collected on *Substance* 1987, have registered on the national chart.

Next Week: Mike Oldfield, Roy Orbison

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Town of fixers and fibbers

MARILYN KINGWILL

Faithless: Adrienne Thomas as Clotilde in *La Parisienne*

THEATRE

La Parisienne Lyric Studio, Hammersmith

IT SEEMS to be the kind of matrimonial bust-up a theatre can expect to see 10,000 times during a moderately busy life in the stalls. He jealously accuses her of infidelity, she indignantly protests her innocence. The row wears this way and that, until there is a noise at the door. "Be quiet," hisses the woman. "It's my husband."

The opening of Henri Becque's *Parisienne* is one of the more notorious in 19th-century French drama. Yet barely anyone in the audience last night appeared to be cracking a smile at that mischievous climax. Was this because the play had lost its punch, or because the East End Stage Company, at present on furlough from Lincoln, brought so little wit to the task of reanimating it?

I incline to the second view. True, Becque's study of the loveless loves of upper-middle-class Parisians seems mild beside the work of that grim human zoologist, Strindberg, who was writing at the same time. But compare it to what was being coyly penned about sex in Britain in the 1880s, and his *comédie rose*, or sardonic comedy, seems astoundingly bold. It is certainly more worthy of revival than the adultery plays of Pinero, Jones and their prurient peers.

In any case, Becque's subject is less sexual mores, which date, than hypocrisy, which does not. Clotilde betrays her husband Adolphe with his friend Lafont, and Lafont with the son of one of her own chums, a young boor unpromisingly called Simpson. Yet she thinks she means it when she lectures a lover for his

liberalism. "I believe in a traditional way of life," she tells him. "I stick to the old values, the old principles."

The men, too, seem blithely impervious to the contradictions in their lives. Lafont, the deceiver deceived, comforts his hurt feelings with the thought that while Clotilde treats him disgracefully, she treats her husband appallingly. Adolphe pompously denounces the louchy Simpson household, yet happily accepts its help in wangling a job promotion. For Becque, Paris was a place where the only alternative to double standards was no standards; a town of fixers and fibbers.

We should not expect touring productions to be slick. Yet there must be less clumsy ways of signalling that this is gay Paris than by playing Offenbach awfully loudly, plumping a *pointilliste* Eiffel Tower backstage, and introducing a cute French maid (identifiable because she is the only person without an English accent) to assault the furniture with a feather duster between acts. Worse, unsubtlety extends to Michael Fry's cast.

Frustration is expressed by a clenching of the fists and slight pumping of the arms, like failing pistons; anxiety by a puckering and palpitating of the face, creating the impression of an alarmed sheep; and upset by a dramatic swivel of the feet, as in some South American dance. The nearest to a decent performance comes from Adrienne Thomas, whose Clotilde last night fought gamely through laryngitis to project a portrait of a Siamese cat vexed by the low quality of the mice in her power.

Yet imagine the performance Geraldine McEwan might have given. Becque was a sly yet mordant humourist, a challenge to the ablest of our performers. Perhaps some of them should give him a try.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

NEW RELEASES

◆ **FRESH HORSES** (15): Unduly door version of Larry Katson's on-board drama about a reckless romance; decent performances from Mary Maguire and Andrew McCarthy. Director: David Anspaugh. Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

◆ **LORD OF THE FLIES** (15): Flat new version of William Golding's savage novel, featuring a group of schoolboys stranded on a remote island. Director: Mark Fildes. Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

◆ **BLACK RAIN** (PG): Quaintly magnificent and poignant Japanese portrait of a family suffering from the after-effects of the Hiroshima bombing. Directed by Shohei Imamura. Music by Yuki Kamekura. Director: David White. ICA Cinema (071-630 8402).

◆ **TREASURES** (15): A house full of treasures is assailed by four giant worms. Affectionate send-up of the monster movie. Directed by David White. ICA Cinema (071-630 8402).

◆ **WINDPRINTS** (15): Taut drama about South Africa in transition, featuring John Hurt as a white policeman, struggling with an African soldier. Directed by David White. ICA Cinema (071-630 8402).

CURRENT

◆ **CINEMA PARADISO** (PG): Giuseppe Tornatore's nostalgic tale of a small Sicilian town, an aspiring cinema operator, and a love affair. Director: Giuseppe Tornatore. Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

◆ **CLEAN AND SOBER** (15): Aggressively bleak portrait of the difficulties in breaking a cocaine habit. With Michael Keaton as an estate agent; made in 1988. Director: Glenn Gordon Caron. Warner (071-458 0791).

◆ **DRAGONS** (PG): Arthur C. Clarke's fantasy of a dragon, ecology, and the artist's urge to create; uneven, a touch naive, but a vast feast. Director: Robert Zemeckis. Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

◆ **FOOLS OF FORTUNE** (15): Pat O'Connor's garbled version of William Trevor's novel about an Irish family's decline. Director: Pat O'Connor. Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

◆ **HARD TO KILL** (15): Steven Seagal as a cop emerging from a seven-year coma to investigate his own disappearance. Director: John Dahl. Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

◆ **HARLEM NIGHTS** (15): Tired, vulgar comedy about a nightclub threatened by a corrupt crime boss, an unimpressive vehicle for Eddie Murphy (ambiguously serving as director). Director: John Dahl. Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

◆ **THE HUNT FOR RED OCTOBER** (PG): Sean Connery as a Soviet submarine commander trying to defect. Director: John Dahl. Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated) with the symbol (L) on release across the country.

◆ **AN INNOCENT MAN** (15): Unpleasant round-up of prison drama clichés, with Tom Selleck as an ordinary Joe, wrongly jailed. Directed by Peter Yates. Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

◆ **JOHNNY HANDSOME** (15): Gritting, unsympathetic action flicker from director John Dahl, with a toughie (Robert De Niro) as a disfigured criminal who plans a double-cross following plastic surgery. With Ellen Barkin. Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

◆ **THE KRYSTALS** (15): Brooding, bloody drama about the rise and fall of the East End gangsters, from war-time childhood to incarceration in separate prisons. Director: Michael Winner. Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

◆ **MONSIEUR HIRE** (15): Francis Ford Coppola's stylish version of a novel about a bachelor's dark obsession with his neighbour, a striking achievement by director John Dahl. With Michael Keaton. Warner (071-458 0791).

◆ **MUSIC BOX** (15): Carlos Saura's anguished, absorbing drama about a Chicago criminal (Al Pacino) and a woman (Faye Dunaway) who find love in the midst of war. Director: Carlos Saura. Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

◆ **NUNS ON THE RUN** (15): Eric Idle and Robbie Coltrane sheltering as nuns in Janet Suzman's 19th-century comedy. Directed by John Dahl. Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

◆ **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** (15): Harry Alan Towers's tedious version of Gaston Leroux's story, with Robert Englund as a madman. Director: Harry Alan Towers. Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

◆ **THE PUNISHER** (15): Routine thriller, based on the Marvel Comics character. Directed by John Dahl. Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

◆ **PRETTY WOMAN** (15): Shamelessly old-fashioned romantic comedy, given some modest cream and sparkle by Julia Roberts. Director: Gary Marshall. Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

◆ **REVENGE** (15): Fehling version of Jim Henson's novel about a doomed love triangle in Mexico. Kew Gardens Cinema (071-727 6705).

◆ **STANLEY & IRIS** (15): Charming, uplifting tale of the love between an elderly worker (Robert De Niro) and a grieving widow (Jane Fonda). Director: Martin Ritt. Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

◆ **SWEETIE** (15): Picky Australian portrait of an unstable teenager. A fine feature debut by director John Dahl. Director: John Dahl. Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

◆ **TALE OF SPRINGTIME** (15): Eric Rohmer's absorbing study of the erotic people play, with Florence Darel as a capricious teenager leading to push her new friend (Anne Parillaud) into her father's arms. A cynical delight. Director: Eric Rohmer. Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

◆ **3 WOMEN IN LOVE** (15): Ambitious comedy of sexual manners from West German filmmaker Rainer Werner Fassbinder, about a naive young man taken up by three women. Director: Rainer Werner Fassbinder. Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

◆ **TREASURE ISLAND** (PG): An old favourite, directed by Charles Foster Jr. Director: Charles Foster Jr. Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

◆ **TRIUMPH OF THE SPIRIT** (15): Witty but old-fashioned comedy — the first filmed by a woman — with a woman (Florence Darel) as a Greek boss forced to fight for his survival. Director: Robert M. Young. Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

◆ **TROPIC BOUTIQUE** (15): Gérard Philipe's charming comedy about his wife and mistress. Stated scenes on musical notes from Bernard Blier. Director: Gérard Philipe. Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

◆ **THE VANISHING** (15): The boyfriend of a tourist disappears in France; his wife and mistress. Stated scenes on musical notes from Bernard Blier. Director: Gérard Philipe. Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

◆ **VINCENT & THEO** (15): Robert Altman's intelligent, sensitive study of the complex relationship between two brothers (Tim Roth) and his brother (Paul Rhys). Screen on the Green (071-226 3520).

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THEATRE

Master Betty Man in the Moon

FOR a few months in 1805, the hero of this entertaining play by Carl Miller was the pop star of Regency England. Dubbed by admirers "the Infant Rascals", he thrilled audiences with his Romeo — and doubtless gave private performances of a less seemingly character afterwards in his dressing-room. Royalty courted him, but within a year his career was virtually over and he retired into complete obscurity. He was then 14 years old.

Miller imagines a visit by the adolescent Betty to Beckford's Fonthill Abbey, where Byron, wrapped in an inky cloak, intends to make him the focus of a pageant of Greek theatricals. What follows is a pageant of a different sort, an

alchemical compound made up of strange elements that all bear upon the themes of role-playing and desperate vanity, but do so from the oddest angles.

Something of a linear progression is provided by Byron's unkind courtship of the fabulous boy, a part, vain victim played by James Ashfield with a knowing smile and a fragile beauty that never camp. However, this line is repeatedly snapped off to allow time for such items as Byron's maiden speech in the Lords (superbly delivered by Michael Gould), Coward's "Mad About the Boy" and a painfully detailed report of the pillorying of revellers caught in *flagrante* in Villiers Street.

Individually, these episodes are cleverly written and strikingly well performed, but they make it hard to decide just what Miller is trying to achieve. Sometimes this appears to be a defence of gay rights; at another time it is a

diatribe against the madder forms of experimental theatre. After playing various laconic footmen, for example, Giles Thomas suddenly launches into a Welsh accent and is very funny anatomising the eccentricities of performance art.

Miller directs the play himself, with an elegant command of the comic possibilities of anachronism. The play is rich in witty lines and theatrical invention: never funnier, perhaps, than when Thomas announces "significant dates in William Betty's later life," and starts a toy white rabbit beating a drum while he calls out, year by year, the useless half century of Betty's adulthood. The absurdity of this contrivance is hugely enjoyable, until the horror on the face of Ashfield's Betty makes laughter freeze, and etches a telling image of the torment of a life that has been burned out by adolescence.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Giles Thomas (top) and James Ashfield in *Master Betty*

CONCERT

Handover Band/ Goodman Queen Elizabeth Hall

THIS was billed as a "recreation concert" — recreation, that is, not in the tiddlywinks sense, but because the concert reconstructed one that was played in the Kärntner Theatre, Vienna, on May 7, 1824.

There was value for money that night. Beethoven gave the be-mused Viennese public their first hearing of the Ninth Symphony, with three mighty movements

from his recently completed *Missa Solemnis* (Kyrie, Credo and Agnus Dei) thrown in for good measure, and with the *Consecration of the House* overture warming up the proceedings.

The 1824 performers simply could not cope with the music's stupendous demands on their technique, stamina or, most important, their understanding. There were no problems with the understanding last night: Roy Goodman's interpretations are always full of blood, sweat, toil and (usually) a few tears. The feeling of struggle, which is the essence of Beethoven, is never lacking in a Handover Band occasion.

Technical shortcomings, how-

ever, did sometimes intrude. Perfectly performed "authentic" Beethoven may in fact be inauthentic; nevertheless, that is what recent recordings have accustomed listeners to hearing. Although the Handover Band (more than 70 strong here) play their period instruments with great drive and dynamic colour, the attack is rarely unanimous, and textures are dull and mushy, when period instruments are supposed to bring sweetness and light.

Yet the energy of the players and singers (the Handover Band Chorus, with the durable solo quartet of Lynda Russell, Carolyn Watkinson, Andrew Murtagh and Michael George) never once

flagged. For inspiring that effort, Goodman deserves admiration. No period-instrument performance of the Ninth is complete without some bizarre new theory about Beethoven's metronome markings being tested. Goodman's hypothesis — expounded in a little speech from the platform — concerns the finale's march, which he maintains should be played at precisely twice the speed which the marking was previously supposed to indicate. Luckily, he failed to achieve this superhuman target, though he did charge like a runaway train through the first movement.

RICHARD MORRISON

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London

◆ **House full, returns only**

◆ **Some seats available**

◆ **Seats at all prices**

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 20

◆ **EPOPEE**

(a) Epic-making, also an old word for an epic poem, from the medieval Latin *epicopeia* (epic-making). "Both of them abhor strong metaphors, in which the epopee delights."

(b) The use in Greek of the sound *ē* instead of the original *ē* for the letter *ē*, as in *epopee* for *epic*. The *ē* in *epopee* is a *metaphor*, in which the epopee delights.

◆ **ITACISM**

(a) The use in Greek of the sound *ē* instead of the original *ē* for the letter *ē*, as in *epopee* for *epic*. The *ē* in *epopee* is a *metaphor*, in which the epopee delights.

(b) The use in Greek of the sound *ē* instead of the original *ē* for the letter *ē*, as in *epopee* for *epic*. The *ē* in *epopee* is a *metaphor*, in which the epopee delights.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Today's position is from the game Engelberg (White) — Hoffman (Black), Schleusingen 1961. Black cannot capture the white queen on account of the R8+? What should he do instead? What solution in tomorrow's Times.

Solution to yesterday's position: 1 Qxg8! Kxg8 2 Rxf7+ Kxg8 3 Rf8+ Kxg8 4 Rf7+ Kxg8 5 Rf8+ Kxg8 6 Rf7+ Kxg8 7 Rf8+ Kxg8 8 Rf7+ Kxg8 9 Rf8+ Kxg8 10 Rf7+ Kxg8 11 Rf8+ Kxg8 12 Rf7+ Kxg8 13 Rf8+ Kxg8 14 Rf7+ Kxg8 15 Rf8+ Kxg8 16 Rf7+ Kxg8 17 Rf8+ Kxg8 18 Rf7+ Kxg8 19 Rf8+ Kxg8 20 Rf7+ Kxg8 21 Rf8+ Kxg8 22 Rf7+ Kxg8 23 Rf8+ Kxg8 24 Rf7+ Kxg8 25 Rf8+ Kxg8 26 Rf7+ Kxg8 27 Rf8+ Kxg8 28 Rf7+ Kxg8 29 Rf8+ Kxg8 30 Rf7+ Kxg8 31 Rf8+ Kxg8 32 Rf7+ Kxg8 33 Rf8+ Kxg8 34 Rf7+ Kxg8 35 Rf8+ Kxg8 36 Rf7+ Kxg8 37 Rf8+ Kxg8 38 Rf7+ Kxg8 39 Rf8+ Kxg8 40 Rf7+ Kxg8 41 Rf8+ Kxg8 42 Rf7+ Kxg8 43 Rf8+ Kxg8 44 Rf7+ Kxg8 45 Rf8+ Kxg8 46 Rf7+ Kxg8 47 Rf8+ Kxg8 48 Rf7+ Kxg8 49 Rf8+ Kxg8 50 Rf7+ Kxg8 51 Rf8+ Kxg8 52 Rf7+ Kxg8 53 Rf8+ Kxg8 54 Rf7+ Kxg8 55 Rf8+ Kxg8 56 Rf7+ Kxg8 57 Rf8+ Kxg8 58 Rf7+ Kxg8 59 Rf8+ Kxg8 60 Rf7+ Kxg8 61 Rf8+ Kxg8 62 Rf7+ Kxg8 63 Rf8+ Kxg8 64 Rf7+ Kxg8 65 Rf8+ Kxg8 66 Rf7+ Kxg8 67 Rf8+ Kxg8 68 Rf7+ Kxg8 69 Rf8+ Kxg8 70 Rf7+ Kxg8 71 Rf8+ Kxg8 72 Rf7+ Kxg8 73 Rf8+ Kxg8 74 Rf7+ Kxg8 75 Rf8+ Kxg8 76 Rf7+ Kxg8 77 Rf8+ Kxg8 78 Rf7+ Kxg8 79 Rf8+ Kxg8 80 Rf7+ Kxg8 81 Rf8+ Kxg8 82 Rf7+ Kxg8 83 Rf8+ Kxg8 84 Rf7+ Kxg8 85 Rf8+ Kxg8 86 Rf7+ Kxg8 87 Rf8+ Kxg8 88 Rf7+ Kxg8 89 Rf8+ Kxg8 90 Rf7+ Kxg8 91 Rf8+ Kxg8 92 Rf7+ Kxg8 93 Rf8+ Kxg8 94 Rf7+ Kxg8 95 Rf8+ Kxg8 96 Rf7+ Kxg8 97 Rf8+ Kxg8 98 Rf7+ Kxg8 99 Rf8+ Kxg8 100 Rf7+ Kxg8 101 Rf8+ Kxg8 102 Rf7+ Kxg8 103 Rf8+ Kxg8 104 Rf7+ Kxg8 105 Rf8+ Kxg8 106 Rf7+ Kxg8 107 Rf8+ Kxg8 108 Rf7+ Kxg8 109 Rf8+ Kxg8 110 Rf7+ Kxg8 111 Rf8+ Kxg8 112 Rf7+ Kxg8 113 Rf8+ Kxg8 114 Rf7+ Kxg8 115 Rf8+ Kxg8 116 Rf7+ Kxg8 117 Rf8+ Kxg8 118 Rf7+ Kxg8 119 Rf8+ Kxg8 120 Rf7+ Kxg8 121 Rf8+ Kxg8 122 Rf7+ Kxg8 123 Rf8+ Kxg8 124 Rf7+ Kxg8 125 Rf8+ Kxg8 126 Rf7+ Kxg8 127 Rf8+ Kxg8 128 Rf7+ Kxg8 129 Rf8+ Kxg8 130 Rf7+ Kxg8 131 Rf8+ Kxg8 132 Rf7+ Kxg8 133 Rf8+ Kxg8 134 Rf7+ Kxg8 135 Rf8+ Kxg8 136 Rf7+ Kxg8 137 Rf8+ Kxg8 138 Rf7+ Kxg8 139 Rf8+ Kxg8 140 Rf7+ Kxg8 141 Rf8+ Kxg8 142 Rf7+ Kxg8 143 Rf8+ Kxg8 144 Rf7+ Kxg8 145 Rf8+ Kxg8 146 Rf7+ Kxg8 147 Rf8+ Kxg8 148 Rf7+ Kxg8 149 Rf8+ Kxg8 150 Rf7+ Kxg8 151 Rf8+ Kxg8 152 Rf7+ Kxg8 153 Rf8+ Kxg8 154 Rf7+ Kxg8 155 Rf8+ Kxg8 156 Rf7+ Kxg8 157 Rf8+ Kxg8 158 Rf7+ Kxg8 159 Rf8+ Kxg8 160 Rf7+ Kxg8 161 Rf8+ Kxg8 162 Rf7+ Kxg8 163 Rf8+ Kxg8 164 Rf7+ Kxg8 165 Rf8+ Kxg8 166 Rf7+ Kxg8 167 Rf8+ Kxg8 168 Rf7+ Kxg8 169 Rf8+ Kxg8 170 Rf7+ Kxg8 171 Rf8+ Kxg8 172 Rf7+ Kxg8 173 Rf8+ Kxg8 174 Rf7+ Kxg8 175 Rf8+ Kxg8 176 Rf7+ Kxg8 177 Rf8+ Kxg8 178 Rf7+ Kxg8 179 Rf8+ Kxg8 180 Rf7+ Kxg8 181 Rf8+ Kxg8 182 Rf7+ Kxg8 183 Rf8+ Kxg8 184 Rf7+ Kxg8 185 Rf8+ Kxg8 186 Rf7+ Kxg8 187 Rf8+ Kxg8 188 Rf7+ Kxg8 189 Rf8+ Kxg8 190 Rf7+ Kxg8 191 Rf8+ Kxg8 192 Rf7+ Kxg8 193 Rf8+ Kxg8 194 Rf7+ Kxg8 195 Rf8+ Kxg8 196 Rf7+ Kxg8 197 Rf8+ Kxg8 198 Rf7+ Kxg8 199 Rf8+ Kxg8 200 Rf7+ Kxg8 201 Rf8+ Kxg8 202 Rf7+ Kxg8 203 Rf8+ Kxg8 204 Rf7+ Kxg8 205 Rf8+ Kxg8 206 Rf7+ Kxg8 207 Rf8+ Kxg8 208 Rf7+ Kxg8 209 Rf8+ Kxg8 210 Rf7+ Kxg8 211 Rf8+ Kxg8 212 Rf7+ Kxg8 213 Rf8+ Kxg8 214 Rf7+ Kxg8 215 Rf8+ Kxg8 216 Rf7+ Kxg8 217 Rf8+ Kxg8 218 Rf7+ Kxg8 219 Rf8+ Kxg8 220 Rf7+ Kxg8 221 Rf8+ Kxg8 222 Rf7+ Kxg8 223 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366 Rf7+ Kxg8 367 Rf8+ Kxg8 368

Britain accepts EC edict on Rover subsidy

Continued from page 1

letter on July 12, 1988, from Lord Young. That said: "On deferment of the £150 million consideration, I can offer three possibilities, in ascending order of risk that the deferment will be picked up by the European Commission, in which case they might require repayment of the notional interest saved." Mr Brown wrote: "You must now agree that the correspondence reveals that the government was involved in a deception even to the extent of assessing the risks of being found out."

Mrs Thatcher and Mr Ridley are angry that what they see as a successful privatisation deal which ended the drain of £3.5 billion of taxpayers' money into Rover and secured the jobs of 190,000 Midlands car workers has put the government on the rack. Mr Brown said yesterday that a government obsessed with privatisation at any price had deceived Parliament deliberately and suffered a "humiliating public rebuke in front of the whole of Europe" for a "sorry tale of incompetence and deception".

But Mr Ridley insisted that the government had never deceived Parliament. He argued that the £9.5 million payment on exclusion of private shares had been reported to MPs under the Industrial Development Act last July with the detail published in September. The £1.5 million for privatisation expenses had been included in a supplementary estimate last summer published in the usual way and the facts made available to the National Audit Office.

Pressed by Labour MPs for an admission of responsibility by the government, Mr Ridley said: "I am in the House, answering, accepting responsibility on behalf of the government, discharging our obligation". In his statement, an unapologetic Mr Ridley declared: "The Government believe that, in the circumstances at the time, the additional concessions granted to British Aerospace were a necessary part of our agreement so that the privatisation of Rover Group could proceed."

The "considerable benefits" of the deal were that the Rover Group, which had swallowed £3.5 billion in government aid while under public ownership, would not in future require subsidy, that the taxpayer was freed from a £1.6 billion liability under the Varley Marshall Joseph assurances, that it had safeguarded jobs and that it made a "desirable contribution" towards restructuring within the European motor industry.



Bridging the gap: the last two sections of the support pillars on the Dartford bridge, which will act as anchors for the steel cables holding up the new road spanning the Thames, being lifted into place yesterday.

Work on the bridge, known as the third Dartford crossing, is expected to be completed by next

summer, effectively plugging the missing link of the M25 between Essex and Kent, and, it is hoped, bringing relief to millions of frustrated motorists. (Michael Dines writes).

The £26 million scheme will be the largest cable-stay bridge in Europe, and will have taken the contractors, Trafalgar House, and

its partners, Kleinwort Benson, Bank of America, and the Prudential, three-and-a-half years to complete. The bridge will eventually double river-crossing capacity to a maximum of 130,000 vehicles a day in each direction.

Since the first Dartford crossing was completed in 1963, traffic flows between the two counties has

far outstretched ability to cater for it. The first Dartford tunnel was carrying 12,000 vehicles a day, or four million a year, within the first year. By 1987, after completion of the second Dartford tunnel and the remaining sections of the M25, traffic had increased to 72,000 vehicles a day or 26 million a year. It is now 30 million a year.

O'Friel says early assault on prison would have worked

By PETER DAVENPORT

BRENDAN O'Friel, the governor of Strangeways, said yesterday that he remains convinced that his plan to forcibly retake the prison from rioting inmates on the second day of the disturbances, but called off at the last moment by his superiors, would have succeeded.

Teams of control and restraint officers on reconnaissance had smashed through the first of the prisoners' barricades when the operation was called off in a telephone call from Brian

Emes, deputy director-general of the prison service. Yesterday, at the Woolf enquiry into the disturbances, Mr O'Friel denied suggestions that when he had briefed Mr Emes he had rated the chances of success of the assault at less than 50 per cent. He said he would not have proceeded with his plans if he had not been "pretty confident" of achieving his objective, although there were risks of deaths and injuries to his men.

"I said that the chances of success were good. It was my opinion then, and it is my opinion now."

During his evidence yesterday, Mr O'Friel also criticised the prison department for failing to provide him with sufficient resources during the siege.

On the 14th day of the hearing, the enquiry dissected events leading up to the decision, a central issue in the debate over the handling of the disturbances. With the assault vetoed by prison service headquarters, the riot and siege lasted 25 days, making it the longest and most violent in British penal history.

The enquiry yesterday was given details of a series of telephone calls between Mr O'Friel, his regional headquarters and Mr Emes in London during the initial chaotic and violent hours of the riot. The enquiry was told that the only call not to be recorded was the one in which the operation was stood down. David Latham, QC, counsel

to the enquiry, put a series of questions to Mr O'Friel based on entries in his log and that of his superior.

It enabled a minute-by-minute account of events. At 12.57am on April 2, the two men discussed the problem of inmates reinforcing their defences. Mr O'Friel said that the tone of the conversation was when the attack would be launched, rather than if.

By 1.30pm, he said, a viable plan was ready. It involved 24 control and restraint teams backed up by 70 prison officers with riot shields, a total of 382 men. The intention was to storm the prison, trapping large numbers of inmates and isolating the hardcore on the roof. It was felt a show of force would have persuaded many to surrender.

At 1.46pm, Mr O'Friel said, he briefed Peter Rudgard, an assistant regional director, who was in Strangeways and then relayed the plans to regional office at 2pm. They passed details to prison service headquarters at 2.09pm.

Asked what response he had expected, Mr O'Friel replied: "I expected it would be viewed by headquarters and I was expecting confirmation to go ahead."

At 2.30pm, the plan was put on hold after clear instructions from Terry Bone, the acting regional director. In a telephone call he raised two questions that were concerning headquarters: the prospect of success which Mr O'Friel told him were good and the risk of casualties which he also said was likely.

The enquiry continues today.

Cells protest: Prisoners transferred from Strangeways following April's riot were involved in disturbances on Sunday night at a police station in Coventry, West Midlands (Craig Seton writes). Excrement and food were thrown from their cells and officers wearing protective clothing were called in to help quell the protest.

Crime statistics, page 4

Van Gogh paintings stolen

From MARK FULLER IN AMSTERDAM

THREE paintings by Vincent Van Gogh were stolen from a museum in Den Bosch, The Netherlands, yesterday morning after a security alarm failed to work.

The paintings are: *Water Mill at Gennep: study of the wheels*, *Peasant Woman Seated, right profile*, and *Peasant Woman Digging*. Piet Veenland, a spokesman for the North Brabant museum, said the stolen art work, which was insured, was worth an estimated £1.5 to £3.5 million.

A police spokesman said there were three suspects. The thieves climbed a number of high fences before entering the rear of the museum by breaking a window.

The works will be difficult to sell on the open market, but may be used to extort a ransom from the museum, as with the theft of three Van Goghs from another Dutch museum in 1988.

Thefts to order, page 7

Political sketch

Neil robbed by his rowdy ranks

YOUR sketchwriter found himself at the opera recently in the company of a sheepfarmer. I observed that the seat my companion occupied was perhaps the most heavily subsidised square yard in discovered space. This remark has put a temporary strain on our friendship.

To reacquaint myself with the farming world, I yesterday looked in on questions to the agriculture minister, just in time to hear Dennis Skinner ask David Curry, the most thoughtful of the junior ministers, whether his department's "set-aside scheme" was really just a fancy phrase for "giving farmers more money to watch the grass grow". That is exactly what it is, and David Curry, whose career at this ministry is in danger of being impeded by his intellect, chuckled that watching the grass grow could be a most environmentally friendly thing to do.

In farming issues, Labour's problem has always been that its supporters are almost all city dwellers. How can the party interest its urban voters in rural affairs? Yesterday Labour's spokesman, David Clark, found the answer. Labour's new agricultural policy is to warn of the spread of mad cow disease to cats.

We are a nation, cried a distressed Dr Clark, of pet owners. Nationwide, four cats now languish with this illness. The whole country was deeply concerned.

Clark is no fool. He recognises that — just as it is the news that Aids could spread to heterosexuals which has aroused the alarm and sympathy of the British people — so the leakage of bovine spongiform encephalopathy into the world of the domestic moggie could be the event which yet has the ordinary voter panicking in the streets. "Vote Labour — your cat's life may depend upon it!" could well prove a winner. If we ate cats, of course, people wouldn't be so bothered.

For Mr Speaker, agriculture questions provided an awkward start to an awkward day. "Mr Eric Morley," he thundered, as the moment for the MP for Glamorgan and Scunthorpe to ask his question arrived. Full of curiosity, we stared down.

When was Mr Morley, the erstwhile *Miss World* impresario, elected an MP? Where, then, was he? And where were the girls? Half a dozen dozing middle-aged Tories woke from their slumbers and peered hopefully around.

The Labour MP for Scunthorpe, who is *Elliot Morley*, protested. Mr Speaker, shaking his wig in confusion, pointed an accusing finger at the Order Paper. "Not my fault," he said. Nor was it. The same gremlins, perhaps, as arranged for junior minister Stephen Dorrell to appear on Monday as "Mrs Dorrell" in a Whitehall written parliamentary answer, were now at work in Westminster.

But the Speaker's problems at agriculture questions were as nothing compared with what followed. Neil Kinnock came closer to skewering the prime minister than he has ever done before. If his own backbenches had had the wit to stop trying to shout her down, and had left her to twist silently in the wind as time and again — she refused to tell Mr Kinnock (or the House) whether she originally knew of the sweeteners offered to British Aerospace, then her embarrassment would have been complete.

As it was, the Speaker's anguished attempts to get a fair hearing for Mrs Thatcher as opposition backbenches kept up a bawling "Answer! Answer! Yes or no?" only obscured the fact that, at this moment in her career, a hearing was the last thing the prime minister wanted. She had nothing to say. Nothing, that is, that might not be taken down and used in evidence against her.

Sketchwriters preach at their peril but, if yesterday, Labour had had the sort of team discipline which would have allowed a chief whip to turn to the benches behind himself and his leader — just as Mrs Thatcher sat down after her first wretched attempt at evasion — and called *Shhh!* and waited for Mr Kinnock to put the same question, again and again, in complete silence... then what was a good day for the Labour leader might have been a great one.

MATTHEW PARRIS

Nasa Hubble enquiry

By PEARCE WRIGHT, SCIENCE EDITOR

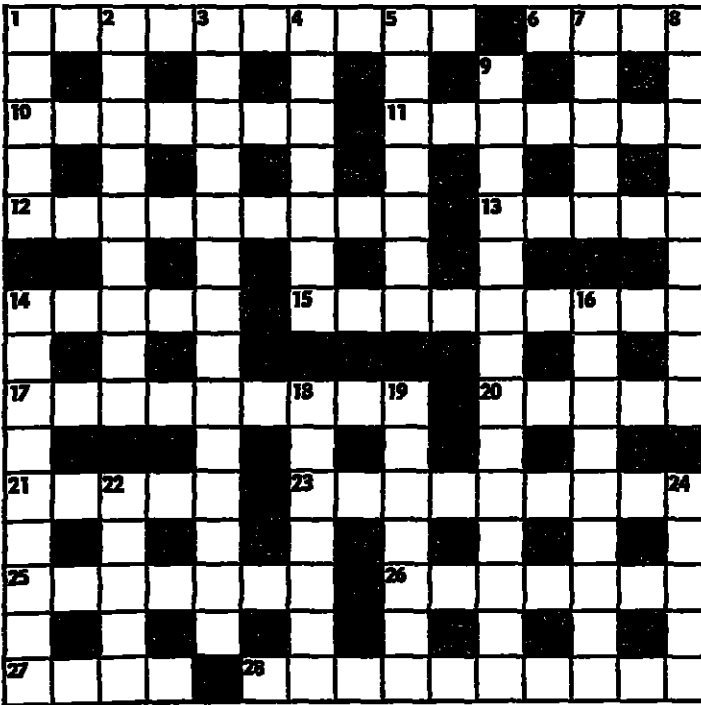
A MASSIVE investigation has been launched by the American space agency, Nasa, into a probable manufacturing error that has crippled the \$1.5 billion Hubble space telescope.

The Hubble's 94in (2.4m) primary mirror, polished to an

accuracy better than five millionths of a centimetre, is the smoothest large mirror ever made, but it is now of limited use as test images show the type of out-of-focus distortion to be expected from a mishapen mirror.

Nasa enquiry, page 9

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,333



- ACROSS
- Where a composer may modulate for a change? (10).
 - Pitcher runs after sheep (4).
 - A soft sort of padding put together to satisfy (7).
 - Dull girl appearing in small photograph (7).
 - Sailor takes tailless bird to the compound (9).
 - Main key found in old vessel (5).
 - Disdain to orchestrate music with final note altered (5).
 - Two sorts of wood used in the plant (9).
 - Corrupt language of garbled RAF signal (9).
 - Some women may resent his good looks (5).
 - Verve displayed in August or September (5).
 - Irritable characters Pepps cited — only one English (9).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,332

LINGERIE FRAGILE
WREATH TIGER
LEAFY
PARAGUAY BIRD
ALPINE
HEADLIGHT STOOD
NIMBLE CORSE
ENAMEL ROULETTE
UGLY AS RABBIT
MARSHGAS LEADIN
O A E O E M G
NUMBER NEWSPAPER

- DOWN
- Scene of a noted bridge party in Provence? (7).
 - Wind net out to port (7).
 - Some females sound as if they are half asleep (4).
 - Bold soldier's first to cheer the ironclad (10).
 - Stores supplied for jazz drums (5).
 - Dismay nobody, thus mounting a horse (9).
 - Favourite resort for impressing the floor (8-6).
 - An elder's most exalted position (4-3).
 - Enchanting as Pimp, say, when embracing sweetheart (7).
 - Cetacean cry of woe, heard by many (5).
 - Story-teller roughed up near court (9).
 - Striped creature responsible for King Edward's destruction (8,6).
 - Security for Peter the painter? Not quite (9).
 - Experimental angle for a nurse's escort? (5-4).
 - Appendices amplify article on design (7).
 - Distraught American political leader joining breakaway group (7).
 - Sound transfixes dog (5).
 - Inexpensive headgear worn by an ambassador (5).

Concise Crossword, page 13

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard GRAMMARHETORICS

- EPOPEE
- Epic-making
 - A verse postscript
 - Personifying E as A
- ITACISM
- Personifying A as E
 - Repetition for effect
 - Deriving a word etymologically
- CAESURA
- Caesar's literary oeuvre
 - A break in a line
 - Reversing the grammatical order
- CONCESSIVE
- An although clause
 - A crescendo in rhetoric
 - A sequential narrative

Answers on page 18

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0835 401 followed by the appropriate code.

- London & SE traffic, roadworks
- C. London (within N & S Circs): 731
 - M-ways/roads M4-M1: 732
 - M-ways/roads M1-Dartford: 733
 - M-ways/roads Dartford-T. A20: 734
 - M-ways/roads M25-M4: 735
 - M25 London Orbital only: 736
- National traffic and roadworks
- National motorways: 737
 - West Country: 738
 - Wales: 739
 - Midlands: 740
 - East Anglia: 741
 - North-west England: 742
 - North-east England: 743
 - Scotland: 744
 - Northern Ireland: 745
- AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

WEATHER

Wales, Northern Ireland and western parts of England and Scotland will be cloudy for much of the day with showers, some of them heavy and prolonged. Central England will also be rather cloudy but mostly dry. Eastern England and Scotland will be largely dry with a risk of a shower towards the end of the day. Outlook: unsettled with showers or longer periods of rain, especially in Wales and England.

ABROAD

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Algeria	29/24	SE	10	Light
Algeria	30/25	SE	10	Light
Algeria	31/26	SE	10	Light
Algeria	32/27	SE	10	Light
Algeria	33/28	SE	10	Light
Algeria	34/29	SE	10	Light
Algeria	35/30	SE	10	Light
Algeria	36/31	SE	10	Light
Algeria	37/32	SE	10	Light
Algeria	38/33	SE	10	Light
Algeria	39/34	SE	10	Light
Algeria	40/35	SE	10	Light
Algeria	41/36	SE	10	Light
Algeria	42/37	SE	10	Light
Algeria	43/38	SE	10	Light
Algeria	44/39	SE	10	Light
Algeria	45/40	SE	10	Light
Algeria	46/41	SE	10	Light
Algeria	47/42	SE	10	Light
Algeria	48/43	SE	10	Light
Algeria	49/44	SE	10	Light
Algeria	50/45	SE	10	Light

AROUND BRITAIN

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	22/16	SE	10	Light
London	23/17	SE	10	Light
London	24/18	SE	10	Light
London	25/19	SE	10	Light
London	26/20	SE	10	Light
London	27/21	SE	10	Light
London	28/22	SE	10	Light
London	29/23	SE	10	Light
London	30/24	SE	10	Light
London	31/25	SE	10	Light
London	32/26	SE	10	Light
London	33/27	SE	10	Light
London	34/28	SE	10	Light
London	35/29	SE	10	Light
London	36/30	SE	10	Light
London	37/31	SE	10	Light
London	38/32	SE	10	Light
London	39/33	SE	10	Light
London	40/34	SE	10	Light
London	41/35	SE	10	Light
London	42/36	SE	10	Light
London	43/37	SE	10	Light
London	44/38	SE	10	Light
London	45/39	SE	10	Light
London	46/40	SE	10	Light
London	47/41	SE	10	Light
London	48/42	SE	10	Light
London	49/43	SE	10	Light
London	50/44	SE	10	Light

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 18C (64F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 13C (55F). Humidity: 6 pm, 62 per cent. Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, trace. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 8.5 hr. Bar: mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,015.1 mbars, steady.

1,000 mbars = 29.53 in.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Windspeed: Highest day temp: Margate, Kent, 25C (77F). Lowest day temp: Cape Wrath, Highland, 11C (52F). Highest rainfall: Glasgow, 0.7 in. Highest sunshine: Stargate, Lincolnshire, 5.5 hr.

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 18C (64F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 11C (52F). Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.05 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 2.4 hr.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 18C (64F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 11C (52F). Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, trace. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 8.5 hr.

Wales, Northern Ireland

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Wales, Northern Ireland

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Algeria	40/35	SE	10	Light
Algeria	41/36	SE	10	Light
Algeria	42/37	SE	10	Light
Algeria	43/38	SE	10	Light
Algeria	44/39	SE	10	Light
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Algeria	50/45	SE	10	Light

WEATHER

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ABROAD

- BUSINESS AND FINANCE 21-29
- MOTORING 31
- YOUR OWN BUSINESS 33
- LAW 34
- SPORT 34-40

Halpern pay may escape profit dip

SIR Ralph Halpern, chairman of the Burton group who is paid on a profit-related basis, may not see his salary fall this year despite expectations of a 30 per cent drop in pre-tax profits in the current year (Gillian Bowditch writes).

Sir Ralph, one of Britain's highest-paid businessmen, received £899,000 last year. His salary is made up of three elements: a basic salary, an earnings-related bonus and a deferred bonus from previous years.

He is unlikely to receive any earnings-related bonus this year because of the profit fall but he is likely to receive a large deferred payment from the mid-1980s when profits were climbing.

Eddie Gallacher, corporate affairs and investors' relations director at Burton, said it would be that Sir Ralph's salary this year would be much in line with last year.

Burton said on Wednesday that recent sales had deteriorated, leading to a downgrading of profit forecasts from analysts. UBS Phillips & Drew expects pre-tax profits of £145 million, compared with £222 million last year followed by only £80 million in 1991. Cazenove, joint broker to Burton with BZW, is also believed to be forecasting profits of £80 million for 1991.

TSA to merge with AFD

The Securities Association is to merge with the Association of Futures Brokers and Dealers next year in a move which will reduce subscriptions and increase protection for investors. A steering group is to be formed to discuss details and proposals will be put to members in the autumn.

Stanislav Yassukovich, TSA chairman, said the merger would substantially increase the effectiveness of investors' protection. Christopher Sharples, chairman of AFD, said the move reflected the growing importance of commodities and derivatives.

Mark link will not stop East exodus

By WOLFGANG MUNCHAU
EUROPEAN BUSINESS
CORRESPONDENT

ABOUT 700,000 East Germans from a population of 16.5 million are considering emigrating to West Germany according to a survey.

The survey, conducted by NOP, a member of the MAI Information Group, and PM&P, a West German market research company, also found that 16 per cent of East Germans intend to buy property. Of those, 26 per cent are looking towards West Germany, despite the much higher house prices there. The majority expects to move permanently to West Germany.

The results will concern the West German government, which pushed ahead with monetary union to attempt to stop the influx of East Germans. Earlier this year East Germans were moving to West

Germany at a peak rate of about 3,000 a day. The survey suggests that the extent of emigration would depend on the acceleration of unemployment in East Germany. Estimates of future unemployment range from 300,000 to 4 million out of a workforce of about 9 million.

The survey, in which 1,000 East German heads of households were interviewed, was commissioned by the Bank of Tokyo Capital Markets in an attempt to establish some hard data on monetary union. World capital markets have expressed fears over potentially inflationary effects of monetary union, which have pushed West German interest rates up to about 9 per cent - in real terms, the highest ever recorded.

The survey concluded that inflationary fears are unfounded. Only 19 per cent of savings will be spent in the first six months, while 53 per

cent will be deposited into long-term savings. About 16 per cent of consumers plan to buy property. Altogether a total of 183 billion Ostmarks will be converted into a total of about Dm108 billion.

Surveys that question spending intentions generally suffer the weakness that people's intentions rarely agree with actual purchasing behaviour later on.

The surprisingly low estimate of immediate spending stands in contrast to some more alarming signals. Second-hand car dealers in Berlin and West Germany, for example, have reported that their stock, particularly of middle-range cars, has almost cleared.

Dr John Hall, chief economist of Bank of Tokyo Capital Markets, the securities house, said: "Given that recent trends in inflation, monetary growth and import prices have been

fairly benign, the implied boost to output suggested by the survey would leave West German inflation at around 3 per cent at the year end. At the same time East Germany will be experiencing substantial deflation with falling prices and rapidly rising unemployment. In this environment the Bundesbank is unlikely to raise interest rates. Only a serious depreciation of the Deutschmark would force its hand here."

Dr Hall estimates that the implied boost to consumption would increase West Germany's gross domestic product by 0.75 per cent in real terms. Inflation would rise by 0.45 per cent. The survey also found that only eight per cent of East Germans would consider investing in state-owned enterprises.

Scepticism about privatisation programmes has also been evident

in Hungary where the state property agency had considerable difficulty in selling the first tranche of Bause, the travel agency that became the first Eastern European company to be privatised. The survey explains away the low investment intentions by "a lack of understanding of the concepts of investment, shareholding and privatisation. For those with a university education, the corresponding figure was 25 per cent."

About 60 per cent of East Germans who live in state-owned accommodation do not intend to purchase their home if the opportunity existed. "This response would clearly be disappointing to those who had hoped that widespread sales of state housing would make a substantial contribution to reducing the East German budget deficit," the survey concludes.

OECD fears West investors will strip East

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

EASTERN Europe risks being asset-stripped by Western investors rather than receiving the long-term investment it needs, says the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development.

In its first report on the region, contained in the latest *OECD Economic Outlook*, the organisation warns the emergent democracies that there will also be a substantial lag between pledges of direct investment and funds coming on stream. Large-scale inward investment is seen to depend on the pace of reform, especially in the area of property and ownership rights.

"Given the extremely important asset markets in the region, there is a risk that private foreign direct investment into these economies will be characterised by predatory manoeuvres rather than longer-term development considerations," it says. The OECD also notes that the need in some countries for hard currency and inadequate information about the value of state assets also makes them vulnerable to "asset-stripping and transfer-pricing practices".

Excluding East Germany, which next week enters monetary union with West Ger-

many, the OECD predicts that the cost of reconstructing the region will far exceed funds available from the West, or what can be efficiently absorbed. Though official credits are expected to increase, it sees them falling well short of potential requirements. Gross official disbursements, mainly to Poland and Hungary, should amount to \$6 billion this year and next.

With debt-constraining borrowing for imports of technology, the OECD concludes that the macro-economic impact of resources flowing to Eastern Europe will only be "modest", again with the exception of East Germany. It is also uncertain if the net inflow of resources will offset the ending of cheap Soviet energy.

On Britain, the OECD says rising exports will keep the economy moving ahead, but the annual growth rate will slow to 0.9 per cent this year before picking up in 1991.

OECD economists see British inflation subsiding from the second half of this year and the external deficit on a downward trend. This was welcome news for the chancellor, providing outside acknowledgement that the government's counter-inflationary squeeze is working.

The OECD notes that despite a marked deterioration

in the business climate, economic activity remains well above the troughs of the last two recessions. Little change in employment in the next 18 months is seen restraining earnings growth. With improving productivity, this should dampen cost pressures.

Net exports are expected to contribute 1.5 percentage points to gross domestic product growth this year, outweighing a likely fall in domestic demand caused by destocking, a fall in investment and subdued growth in consumer spending. GDP growth is expected to climb to 1.9 per cent next year.

Though the OECD expects the current account deficit to drop to 2 per cent of GDP next year and inflation to slow, it sees risks too. The sustained buoyancy of M0, the narrow money measure, and the revival of retail sales could indicate stronger-than-expected consumer demand.

Average growth rates in the OECD area are seen staying close to 3 per cent this year and next, with inflation steady at about 4.5 per cent. The report underlines the need to maintain the credibility of anti-inflationary monetary policies, but voices confidence that regulatory changes in the United States should help prevent risky lending.

Freeing trade in Tokyo



Out to break barriers: Linn Williams, the American deputy trade representative, arriving for the final round in Tokyo of the year-long Structural Impediments Initiative talks between Japan and the US on cutting barriers to trade. Report, page 22

Pioneer issue by Anglian Water

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT
FINANCIAL EDITOR

ANGLIAN Water has pioneered what promises to be an innovative financing instrument for privatised water groups by making a £100 million index-linked bond issue. The 18-year bond, which carries a coupon of 5 1/2 per cent, one percentage point above comparable index-linked gilt-edged stock, was fully placed in the London market by Cazenove and Greenwell Montagu at nearly £102 per £100 nominal.

The index-linked issue is the largest ever by a private sector firm and is likely to be followed by similar issues by other water groups, stimulating a new index-linked bond sector in London. The arrangements for index-linking interest and capital have been kept in line with those on government stocks.

Apart from the government, only three index-linked stocks of any size have been issued. These were by the Nationwide, Anglia and Halifax building societies. The largest was for £50 million. There have also been two smaller issues by specialist investment trusts.

Schroders, the merchant bank which arranged the Anglian issue, said index-linked bonds were particularly suitable for water service groups because their income was index-linked through the price control formula. Anglian's prices to customers are set to rise each year by 5.5 per cent more than the inflation rate.

Alan Smith, managing director of Anglian, said it was logical for his firm to be first to issue an index-linked issue. Had Anglian issued a conventional 18-year bond, it would have had to pay 1.5 points above the comparable gilt-edged stock, about 11 1/4 per cent.

Anglian had first thought of making a conventional bond issue in January, but rates had risen and so the group had opted for an index-linked issue. Had Anglian issued a conventional 18-year bond, it would have had to pay 1.5 points above the comparable gilt-edged stock, about 11 1/4 per cent.

Welsh Water beat its prospectus profit forecast with pre-tax profits of £39.5 million. This is equivalent to an annual £97 million, allowing for debt write-offs and cash injections, compared with a forecast £93 million. Pro forma earnings per share were 61.7p, against a forecast 58.9p. The dividend is 11.17p, two-thirds of a full year's dividend.

Tempos, page 23
Comment, page 23

THE POUND

US dollar (-0.0030)
W German mark
2.8997 (-0.0007)
Exchange index
91.3 (same)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1887.8 (-14.8)
FT-SE 100
2355.7 (-17.8)
New York Dow Jones
2874.01 (+11.88)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave
32106.19 (-206.56)
Closing Prices ... Page 29

Major indices and major changes

Page 26

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base, 15%
3-month interbank 15-14 1/4%
3-month eligible bills 14 1/4-14%
US: Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds Rate 7 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 7.75-7.74%
30-year bonds 10 1/2-10 1/4%

CURRENCIES

London: New York:
£ \$1.7400
£ DM2.8607
£ Sfr1.4542
£ FF9.7397
£ Yen266.48
£ Index 91.3
ECU £0.712066
£ ECU1.404384

GOLD WOB

London Fixing:
AM \$350.00 pm \$352.30
close \$352.00-352.50 (£202.00-202.50)
New York:
Comex \$361.70-352.20*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Aug) \$15.90 bbl (\$15.90)
Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.12	2.13
Austria Sch	21.30	19.80
Belgium Fr	66.25	68.45
Canada C\$	1.11	1.10
Denmark Kr	11.52	10.62
Finland Mk	10.13	9.53
France Fr	3.015	2.838
Germany DM	14.15	13.75
Greece Dr	22.20	20.90
Italy Lire	3375	3175
Japan Yen	115	106
Netherlands Gld	11.55	10.95
Norway Kr	35.25	29.25
Portugal Esc	200	185
Spain Ptas	165	153
Sweden Kr	10.92	10.32
Switzerland Fr	2.55	2.40
Turkey Lira	4815	4415
Yugoslavia Dnr	182	172

Rates for small denomination bank only as supplied by Barclay's Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 126.2 (May)

Ferriday arrested at airport

JOHN Ferriday, the former chairman of Eagle Trust, was arrested at Manchester Airport yesterday after flying in from Texas.

Mr Ferriday, aged 45, was taken to Halesowen police station in the West Midlands. He was questioned by commercial fraud squad officers and charged, with Richard Smith, aged 37, the former managing director of Eagle, with the alleged theft of £13.5 million from the company.

A police statement said Mr Ferriday initiated arrangements, through his solicitor, to return to Britain.

In January, Halesowen magistrates issued a warrant for Mr Ferriday's arrest. Since then he has been abroad.

His wife, Iris, was also arrested and questioned but released on police bail. Last December, Eagle Trust won a High Court ruling to freeze Mr Ferriday's assets world-wide pending a civil action.

Bond vote adjourned

By MARTIN WINN

ALAN Bond's Bond Corporation Holdings has been given three more weeks to persuade its Eurobond holders to approve the Aus\$1.8 billion (£814.48 million) sale of its Australian breweries, or face possible liquidation.

Bond Corp won an adjournment of a vote on the crucial brewing sale at a special meeting in London yesterday after it appeared that its investors were poised to block the deal. The vote is now due on July 19.

The company's directors said that without the extra breathing space, the long-awaited brewing deal would collapse. They might no longer be able to treat the company as a going concern, and it could go into liquidation.

Holders of US\$340 million of Bond Corp convertible bonds, now worth just 5 cents in the dollar, agreed to the postponement when it emerged that Bond Corp would

fail to win the required 75 per cent vote in favour of the brewing sale. "We need extra time to contact bondholders to ensure we win approval," Peter Lucas, a director, said. He maintains that the Bond group, labouring under more than Aus\$4 billion of net debt, is sitting on several hundred million dollars of intangible assets that in the event of a liquidation might be paid to

bondholders, who currently have little security.

But brokers at the meeting said the next vote, which will again require a 75 per cent majority, could yet derail Bond Corp's reconstruction plans, as many investors were angry about the company's demand that they waive interest payments for a year.

Bond Corp rejected suggestions from some of the 50 investors present that its bankers take control of its remaining assets and that Mr Bond should stand down as executive chairman. The company also spurned demands that it should offer to buy back its Eurobonds at a discount, and refused to reveal details of a "positive proposal" it has promised bondholders if they agree the brewery sale.

Mr Lucas said Bond Corp was still negotiating over the sale of its 28 per cent stake in British Satellite Broadcasting, and that the disposal could be delayed beyond the July 1 deadline set by BSB's other shareholders.



Alan Bond: crucial sale

End of the road for first pan-European business channel

EBC staff shocked by bankruptcy

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK

THE FIRST pan-European business television channel is to stop broadcasting at the end of this week after its Swiss backers shocked the programme's 100 employees by filing for bankruptcy yesterday.

European Broadcasting Channel (EBC), which transmits half-hour business programmes in English and German on satellite and cable television from its base in Zurich, has had serious financial difficulties since its launch by John Winnistoerfer, the Swiss businessman, in November 1988.

Advertising revenue had not yet come near to offsetting the costs of bilingual broadcasting, and EBC could not persuade investors to provide extra capital. When Time Warner, the world's largest

media group, refused to rescue EBC with a bid after weeks of negotiations, the EBC board opted for bankruptcy. Liabilities, understood to be more than SwFr50 million (£20.41 million), far exceed assets.

EBC's staff, many without contracts and the majority without Swiss work permits, are unlikely to receive any compensation. They have hired a lawyer to press for a settlement.

James Long, EBC's editor-in-chief, said: "It is both alarming and horrifying that we have been put in a situation where no one now knows whether they can even get home to Britain with any dignity, after two years of hard work putting together a highly respected programme."

Herr Winnistoerfer, the chief execu-

utive, was not available for comment. EBC, which estimates its daily audience at between 120,000 and 250,000, had expected to break even by 1994. Time Warner, which is considering launching a more ambitious pan-European business programme from West Germany, broke off bid talks because it could not take a stake larger than 49 per cent under Switzerland's strict foreign ownership rules, nor could the government assure it that EBC could keep its franchise beyond the year 2000 or broadcast more than six hours a day.

EBC's accounts were not kept separate from the accounts of Limglight, Herr Winnistoerfer's TV production house, which narrowly escaped bankruptcy two years ago when it began supplying technical equipment to EBC.



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Japan and US talk their way towards cutting trade bars

From a CORRESPONDENT

JAPAN and the United States were yesterday heading for agreement at talks in Tokyo after lengthy negotiations on removing trade barriers.

During a break in talks, an American official said: "There has been progress. We are still divided on two issues, but we should reach agreement."

The final round of the year-long series of Structural Impediments Initiative talks was taking place at the Japanese foreign ministry.

Taro Nakayama, the Japanese foreign minister, welcomed the result of the negotiations, saying that it was a decade of trade friction between the two countries.

"The final report of the structural talks has included all the trade issues in the past ten years," Mr Nakayama told a news conference after a cabinet meeting that approved the final report of the bilateral Structural Impediments Initiative.

"I am very pleased with the outcome," he added.

Aside from the agreement on boosting public infrastructure, Japan promised to try to reduce the period that its

bureaucrats take to consider patent applications.

Japan also said that it would work to strengthen anti-monopoly measures against business groups indulging in restrictive practices, and repeated a commitment to relax Tokyo's controversial Large Retail Store Law, which is designed to protect small businesses, but which American officials say is serving to exclude American goods from the domestic market.

The American side, required to make reciprocal gestures, emphasised the administration's commitment to eliminating the huge federal budget deficit.

The delegation cited President Bush's statement on Tuesday that extra tax revenues would be needed.

There were, however, some voices of caution, despite the confidence of Mr Nakayama and the welcome by the American negotiators of the "historic document" which would bring significant benefits for both economies and would enhance the quality of life in both countries.

Trade experts said yesterday that economic tension

between America and Japan was likely to ease after the pact, but that it by no means spelt a future free of bilateral trade battles.

Hajime Ohta, the director of international affairs for the Japan Federation of Economic Organisations, said: "If the pledges made are carried out, this will be a step towards improved, healthier relations. But with such profound ties between the two countries and so many divergent interests, it is difficult to think we won't have friction in the future."

In other key clauses, the American side also said that it was making strong efforts to stimulate private savings and to pursue "an open and non-discriminatory direct investment policy".

The United States also said that it would try to ensure non-discriminatory treatment for Japan under a bilateral tax treaty, and that it would increase funding for research and development and would boost exports.

America would also stress excellence in education, and improve the quality of the workforce.

Recovery in profit begins at TSB

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE TSB Group is recovering from its collapse in profits last year although pre-tax profits for the six months to end-April were up only 7 per cent to £175 million, at the bottom end of expectations.

Sir Nicholas Goodison, the chairman, said the recovery showed the reorganisation was on schedule. The interim dividend goes up 11 per cent to 3.15p a share.

The bad debts charge jumped from £26 million to £84 million, with a high increase in corporate bad debts. Sir Nicholas said: "We are seeing the worst credit squeeze since the early seventies."

The results did not include a £17 million loss at Target, the life assurance company, which TSB is selling. This compares with a profit of £3 million in 1989 and the losses include a £2.5 million provision for the Target's payments to investors in Garston Amhurst, the collapsed life assurance agent.

The other investment companies did well, with profits climbing 86 per cent to £54 million. The group was also held back by Swan National, which has been hit by falling values in the secondhand market.

Temps, page 23



Reorganisation is on schedule despite credit squeeze: Goodison, TSB chairman

EC acts to open up telephone networks

From PETER GUILFORD
IN BRUSSELS

THE European Community moved a stage further in its campaign for cheaper telephone services yesterday by agreeing to remove barriers preventing private telecommunications firms using public networks.

But a simultaneous pledge by the European Commission to break the hold of national monopolies over most telephone services reawakened opposition from Spain, which said it could not rule out court action to stop Brussels overstepping its powers.

EC telecommunications ministers meeting in Luxembourg formally endorsed the open network provision. This would eliminate barriers, such as discriminatory tariff rules, which hinder the access of private telecommunications companies to the market.

Brussels has confirmed that it will shortly use its powers, under Article 90 of the Treaty of Rome, to allow private companies to compete for the sale of most value-added telephone services. These include fax transmission, electronic mail, and shopping and banking by phone. Telephones and telex machines, which account for 90 per cent of the existing telecommunications industry, will remain in national hands.

Caledonia escapes major B&C loss

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

CALEDONIA Investments, the investment group controlled by the Cayzer family, has not escaped the collapse of British & Commonwealth unscathed, although its judgment prevented any major loss.

Caledonia sold its main holding in B&C near the market peak in 1987 for £427 million in cash and preference shares. Caledonia also made sure that the preference shares were backed by a full bank guarantee on both income and principal.

Calling the guarantee on the remaining £164 million principal will, however, mean that the income and principal are unlikely to be franked for payment in dividends without

further tax. Allowing for this has contributed a £38 million drop to £462 million in Caledonia's shareholders' funds in the year to end-March. This also reflects property provisions and the under-performance of small company shares.

Caledonia's pre-tax profits increased 38 per cent to £35.3 million. The dividend is raised by 20 per cent to 12p out of earnings up 32 per cent to 25.9p per share. Operating profit from its trading interests also rose from £1.6 million to £2.1 million.

Peter Buckley, the chief executive, envisaged interesting opportunities in the property sector.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Morton says tunnel rail link inevitable

ALISTAIR Morton, chief executive of Eurotunnel, told shareholders yesterday it was "inevitable" that a high-speed rail link between the Channel tunnel and London would eventually be built, despite the government's current refusal to fund the project. He said that, although he regretted the "confusion and indecision" caused by Britain's hesitation about a high-speed link, failure to build one before the year 2003 would have only a marginal impact on Eurotunnel's financial position, reducing estimated revenues of almost £836 million by only £10 million.

Eurotunnel had campaigned in favour of the rail link, but the bottom line was that "congestion in the southeast was not a problem we have to pay for". Mr Morton said, briefing shareholders in London 24 hours after the company's extraordinary general meeting in Paris had approved proposals for a £530 million rights issue in October.

Profits slip at Greycoat First-half loss at Regina

PRE-TAX profits at Greycoat, the property investment and development company, fell from £21.7 million to £20.4 million for the year to end-March. The company is paying a final dividend of 2.9p, making a total of 5.2p (4.5p). Eps were 24.8p (23.4p). Greycoat earned an extraordinary profit of £15.77 million on interest swap deals.

REGINA Health and Beauty reported losses of £477,000 for the six months to end-December against profits of £101,000 last time. An exceptional loss of £2.5 million covers the cost of fixed assets and stocks which Regina no longer feels able to carry in its balance sheet. A refinancing package is to be put to shareholders. Lps were 12p (eps 0.3p).

Sterling jumps 50%

STERLING Publishing, the trade and technical publisher which also owns Debut's *Peerage*, boosted pre-tax profits by 50 per cent to £4.36 million in the year to March 31. The USM group has diversified from its original business of advertising-financed reference books, with 47 per cent of its trade and newsstand turnover now from magazines.

All divisions performed strongly, except Debut, which showed a small loss. But Ronald Cohen, the chairman, said Debut is unlikely to make material contributions to group profits until its new publications are fully established several years from now. Turnover increased 44 per cent to £25.4 million, while earnings per share climbed 22 per cent to 12.5p. A final dividend of 4.5p makes 6p, up 33 per cent.

Reprimand for Bremner Prague office for Citibank

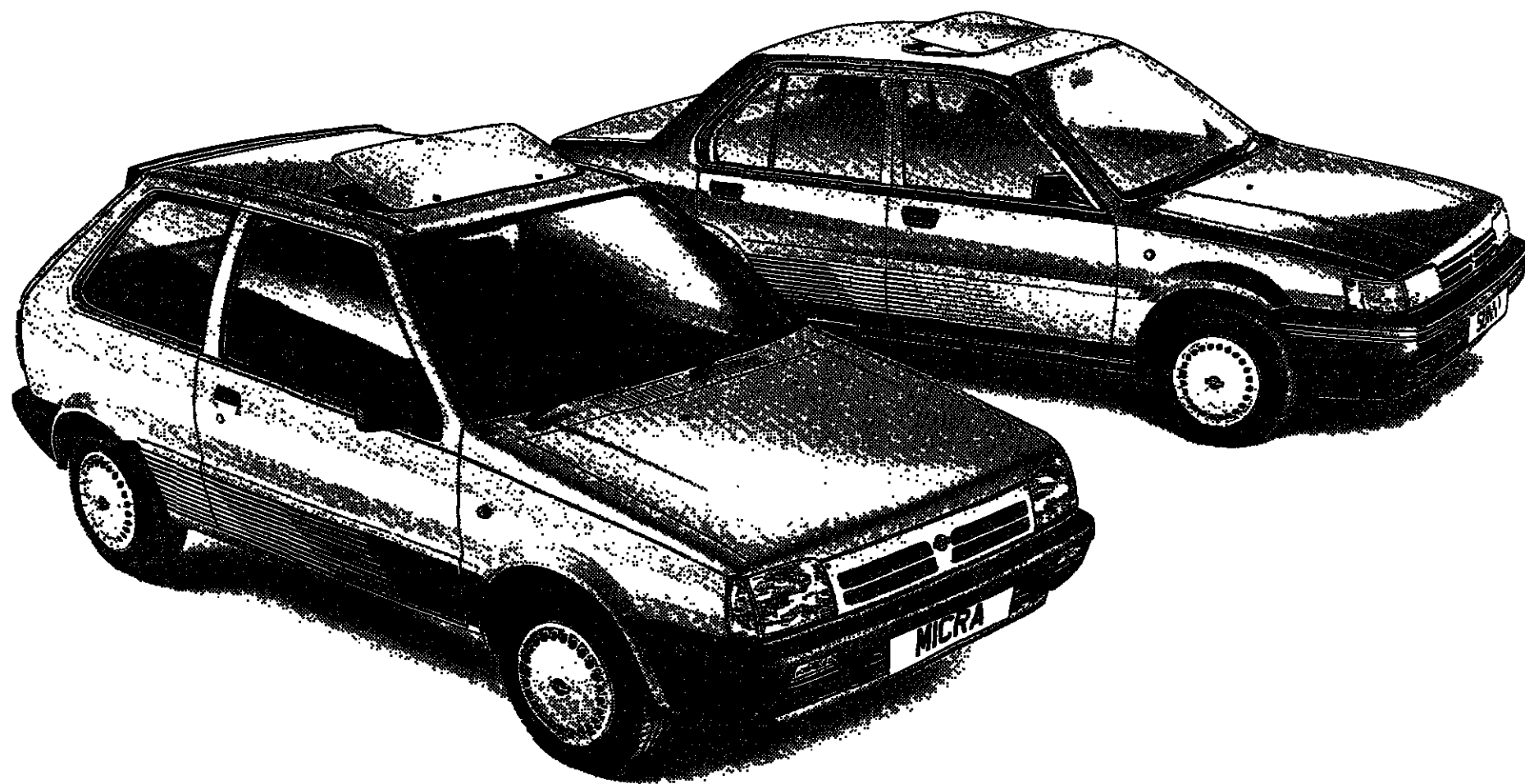
THE Stock Exchange has rebuked Bremner, the stock-broking and property group, for issuing two statements without approval after trading in its shares resumed on June 19 following suspension. Bremner was told that the breach of rules will be considered when Bremner's suitability for a listing is reviewed after its extraordinary general meeting.

CITIBANK, a unit of Citicorp, will open representative offices in Prague and Warsaw on Sunday. The offices will assist corporate clients to identify local and foreign partners, establish joint ventures and arrange financing. The bank anticipates broader participation in Poland and Czechoslovakia as regulatory arrangements evolve.

Carclo dips to £8.8m

CARCLO Engineering, the diversified engineering group, reported a 2 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £8.83 million for the year to end-March, and said it was selling RSR, a subsidiary of its troubled Woodhead automotive springs division. In April, Carclo sold another Woodhead unit.

Group turnover rose 2 per cent to £111.6 million, although continuing businesses increased sales by almost 13 per cent. Operating profits slipped from £10.66 million to £10.55 million. Directors recommended a final dividend of 5.55p to make a total of 7.1p (5.9p) for the year. Earnings per share were 15p (15.03p).



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0% APR Deposit (50% min.) 12 monthly payments of Finance Charge Total credit price	£3,150.24 £ 262.52 £nil £6,300.48	£3,724.56 £ 310.38 £nil £7,449.12
3.6% (APR 7.2%) Deposit (40% min.) 24 monthly payments of Finance Charge Total credit price	£2,520.19 £ 169.27 £ 282.19 £6,582.67	£2,979.65 £ 200.06 £ 331.97 £7,781.09
6.6% (APR 12.9%) Deposit (20% min.) 36 monthly payments of Finance Charge Total credit price	£1,260.10 £ 168.02 £1,008.34 £7,308.82	£1,489.82 £ 198.60 £1,190.30 £8,639.42
7.6% (APR 14.6%) Deposit (20% min.) 48 monthly payments of Finance Charge Total credit price	£1,260.10 £ 137.14 £1,542.34 £7,842.82	£1,489.82 £ 162.11 £1,821.98 £9,271.10

*OFFER APPLIES TO ALL MICRA AND SUNNY CARS EXCEPT 1.6 RANGE REGISTERED BETWEEN 1st JULY AND 31st AUGUST 1990. *CASH PRICES SHOWN ARE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS AND INCLUDE DELIVERY, 12 MONTHS ROAD TAX AND NUMBER PLATES. PARTICIPATING DEALERS OF NISSAN CARS ONLY. *ON REQUEST. OFFER SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL. *DESIGN MAY VARY.

A fine head of brewing profits

COMMENT

DAVID BREWERTON

An extra seven pence on a pint sent the brewing analysts scurrying to their computer screens, not to see whether their depleted finances could still stand a round, but to see what the effect would be on the companies they follow. The answer, in short, is not much. Drinkers in the lush Southeast could easily be paying 124p a pint, of which 24p belongs to the government and the round pound to the brewing and distribution chain. A rise of the magnitude indicated by Allied Breweries is below the rate of inflation, and probably not even enough to set the teeth of Sir Gordon Borrie, director general of fair trading, on edge.

The beer price-rise season used to be an autumn event, but the cartel is crumbling. Now, the brewers look to their own and Allied is looking to keep its brewing profits creaming along in case any of the several potential suitors for the breweries comes up with an acceptable offer. A number of names have been thrown into the ring, including Scottish & Newcastle in this country and a handful of

overseas brewers, with Carlsberg probably heading a list which includes both Labat and Anheuser-Busch.

Allied itself has never said it wants to quit brewing, but the implications for the vertical brewers have been on the wall since Lord Young declared he was "minded" to accept the report of the monopolies commission into the tied house system. His mindedness was diluted by contact with the brewers' lobby machine, but the eventual rules on the limitations of the tie were enough to kick away much of the logic behind integrated brewing/retailing operations. When Allied lost the battle for Bond Brewing and instead opted to remain in food, the beerage read this to be a signal that it could be a willing seller at the right price.

Much will depend on the result of yet another monopolies commission investigation, this under way into the proposed

acquisition of Grand Metropolitan's breweries by Courage and the associated pub link between the two groups. Sir Gordon, by referring that deal, has demonstrated that just because pubs are put at arm's length he is not necessarily prepared to wear greater concentration of brewing power. The grouse will be already on the table before the monopolies commission report finds its way to the minister's desk, and in the meantime the wheeling and dealing is unlikely to get beyond conditional contract stage.

So far, the brewing industry seems to have escaped the consumer downturn which has spread from the DIY sheds through niche retailing and into

the mass market shops of the Burton Group kind. Volumes are slightly down this year, but a round of price rises will be enough to keep profits ticking along nicely while the potential buyers line up at the bar.

Water first

The water industry is ideally suited to index-linked financing. Its income is regulated to rise by at least the rate of inflation over the decade and it needs the money to fund fixed asset investments that, once in place, should earn a reasonable return indefinitely on a current cost basis.

Adding to this fundamental

attraction, the ten companies have so many built-in capital allowances that they will pay little corporation tax for the foreseeable future. The tax-free uplift in principal due to index-linking, a basic attraction to investors other than pension funds, does not cost the companies or their customers.

Ian Byatt, the director general of water services, is committed to analysing the industry in terms of current costs. So Anglian, suitably acting as pioneer, had no trouble agreeing an accounting regime to fit in with price regulation and allow provisions for index-linked redemptions.

The ten main groups are therefore likely to see index-linked finance as an important element in the £10 billion or so they will have to raise in external finance over the next ten years to finance £25 billion of investment.

Severn Trent explored the market for conventional bonds

early in the year and found a less ecstatic reception at rates it considered reasonable, leading others to shelve any plans they had. If it was an accident that the first permanent capital raising should be index-linked, it was also a happy one from several points of view. It carries an implication that it is reasonable for dividends on risk-bearing shares to rise at least in line with inflation. It also shows critics that there are innovative ways of financing that can minimise price rises as well as maximising profits.

Whether index-linking will save money in the end will depend on what happens to the rate of inflation. In that context, further issues in six to nine months time might be more attractive to the companies. A steady stream would help create a significant new financial market, centred in London, that would offer an attractive new instrument combining index-linking with a better yield than gilt-edged. Some worried water investors might even find it a useful hedge against their political fears.

HIGH fashion has always been a risky business. Designers trying to marry art with commerce have rarely compromised on the art, and names as famous as Vivienne Westwood have been rescued from bankruptcy in recent years.

However, up until now, selling fashion to the masses has been immensely profitable, and safe. In the mid-1980s fashion retailing became an increasingly glamorous business and was presided over by flamboyant entrepreneurs such as George Davies, of Next, and Sir Ralph Halpern, of Burton Group.

Fashion retailers are still making millions — last year, the British public spent £17.4 billion on clothes — but the outlook is getting increasingly bleak, mid-season sales get earlier and earlier and profits are falling.

This week's trading warning from Burton Group, which owns Principles, Top Shop and Dorothy Perkins, has focused attention on troubles in the sector and led analysts to downgrade profit forecasts once again.

Burton is now expected to make between £150 million and £175 million this year, against £222 million last year. Forecasts for 1991 are as low as £80 million.

High interest rates which mean consumers have less to spend after meeting higher mortgage payments are a reason for the problems retailers face, but, although interest rates play a significant part, the malaise in fashion retailing runs deeper than that.

The market research group Verdict says that the clothing sector was already running into trouble before the government decided to put the brake on the economy, and John Richards, retail analyst at County NatWest, believes that many of the fashion retailers' problems are self-inflicted. He accuses some of them of corporate short-termism, chasing earnings growth at the expense of investing in retail concepts for the 1990s and beyond.

This short-termism has led some retailers into property development, which looked a clever move three years ago,

Ring of the alarm bells replacing ring of tills



Sales pitch: special offers woo Regent Street visitors but now saddles them with a problem as property prices fall and interest costs rise.

While fashion retailers such as Next and Burton must be credited with bringing excitement and choice to consumers, many failed to look beyond the boom of the mid-1980s. In the race for space, they all rushed for the same expensive prime sites and

shoppers. Retail property developments are planned and allocated years in advance, so even in a downturn, new shops are still being opened. County NatWest estimates that 20 million sq ft of retail space is due to come on stream this year.

The market for clothing increased by 6.1 per cent last year, according to Verdict, the research group, but that increase was the smallest recorded since 1983. With rising wages and rents and the uniform business rate all pushing costs up, retailers need healthy volume increases to cover them.

Verdict says that both menswear and womenswear were among the fastest growing retail sectors in the 1980s. It expects fashion retail space to grow by 10 per cent between now and 1993 and says that real sales densities, which fell last year, will fall further this year and in 1991. "The next year or two in clothing will be very tough indeed," it says.

Both Mr Richards and Verdict say fashion retailers have largely overlooked a change in demography. Retailers have been concentrating on young adults, who spend more per capita on clothing than any other age group. However, the changing age profile of Britain's population means that retailers will have to concentrate more on over-35s.

Verdict says: "There has been a disappointing lack of commitment to experiment with new formats targeting the over-35 age group. This will be the main growth area in moving into the next decade, even if the per capita spend is lower than the declining under-25s market."

Fashion retailers will always dominate the high street, but the clothing market is one of the most demanding in retailing. Fashion trends have short lives. Success in one season is no guarantee for the next. The large, steady companies that dominate the market, such as Marks and Spencer, and Sainsbury's, will always survive, but the stars of the 1980s are on the wane and the stars of the year 2000 may not yet have opened their first shop.

Gillian Bowditch

'Dr' Goodison's patient stirs

SIR Nicholas Goodison's shake-down of the TSB Group has started working, but the bank has a long way to go before it can be classified fit and healthy, as the figures for the six months to end-April demonstrate.

Pre-tax profits were up a modest 7 per cent to £175 million, at the lower end of market forecasts. Even this increase was assisted by two cases of helpful accounting. TSB has taken Target, the life assurance company, out of its figures, now that it is up for sale. This made an inconvenient loss of £17 million. Profits were also helped by a £16 million reduction in pension contributions.

The main drag on the recovery was a 223 per cent hike in bad-debt provisions to £84 million. Most of the rise came from corporate lending where specific provisions multiplied tenfold to £40 million, including a £5 million write-off for British & Commonwealth.

The quality of TSB's corporate loan book, built up rapidly through Hill Samuel, has often been questioned. Now the group can only wait to see how expensive its former eagerness will become.

On the plus side, TSB actually reduced costs by 1 per cent to £608 million in the half, and is heading for a cost/income ratio of less than 70 per cent in the full year.

The TSB Trust Company's investment product sales to bank customers are so successful that the division's profits were up 86 per cent to £54 million.

But it will be years before TSB's performance can be mentioned in the same breath as Barclays or NatWest's. Until then, the share price is buoyed by bid hopes, which ignore the immense regulatory problems a takeover would face.

On an estimated dividend this year of 6.45p, the shares at 136p have a 6.3 per cent yield and a p/e ratio of nine, compared with a prospective p/e of six and a payout of 7.8 per cent at the AAA-rated NatWest. Paying a bid-inflated price for TSB looks pointless in the short run.

Welsh Water

WELSH Water was priced on the second highest dividend yield at privatisation, partly because it was Welsh and partly because of early doubts on its ability to cope with its £1.8 billion capital spending programme. Consequently, the shares have outperformed as chairman John Elford Jones and his team overcame prejudice and bought an engineering consultancy group.

Welsh beat its prospectus forecast with pro forma annual pre-tax profits £4 million above estimate at £97 million. It also raised capital spending from £74 million to £107

million, £2 million more than forecast. This was extra spending on bottlenecks and came out of increased income. The main programme was within budget. Spending should rise to £170 million this year.

Unmetered sales rose a real 1.4 per cent and metered sales 2.8 per cent, reflecting a recovery of the Welsh economy. That is straight gain, thanks to spare capacity from the rundown of old industries.

Up a further 3p to 170p, against the weighted sector average of 157p, the partly paid shares sell at five times earnings and yield 7.2 per cent. The yield is still above average and should stay that way for a while because flat short-term earnings will not encourage above average dividend growth for a year or two.

Further ahead, Welsh has plenty of scope to cut operating costs from a base which rose 33 per cent during the transitional year, though it could be exposed to additional underground costs. Welsh looks a sound long-term holding for growing income.

BPB Industries

By nailing its fortunes so firmly to one product — plasterboard — BPB Industries is not making life easy for itself or its shareholders.

Pre-tax profits tumbled by 37.5 per cent to £126 million in the year to end-March as

the company came under price pressure on all fronts.

In Britain, the former monopoly supplier is facing determined competition from Knauff of West Germany and Redland-CSR, the Anglo-Australian group. Alan Turner, the chairman, says the main impact has been on volume not margins. But with 30 per cent of British sales dependent on the depressed house-building industry, recovery prospects do not look good. Mr Turner believes the over-supplied market is contracting by 10 per cent a year.

Unfortunately the prospects look no brighter abroad. The company has invested heavily in Europe, most recently with the £97 million acquisition of a Spanish group. Total group sales in Europe have grown from £304 million to £399 million. But price competition from European rivals depressed profits. Given the stiff competition it is difficult to know why the company is so optimistic about Eastern Europe.

A final dividend of 7.25p (7p) to give a total of 11.25p (10.75p) reduces cover to less than two. The current year could be even tougher, with no sign that the competition is going to go away. Assuming the group makes pre-tax profits of £100 million, the shares stand on a prospective p/e of 13. In the absence of a bid that is too expensive.

We've seen good cashflows and we've seen bad cashflows, but we've never seen one that can't be improved.

In the current business climate, there are three important issues.

Cashflow, cashflow and cashflow. A company may be sound, the order book full, but lack of cash for equipment, materials or even more staff can still curtail its growth.

We'll solve the problem well. Our considerable financial expertise (we're part of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group) has enabled us to produce original cashflow solutions which help a business towards growth.

Here are seven.

1. Why use your capital to pay for an asset, when it can pay for itself?

Instalment finance lets an asset start to earn its keep. This leaves your capital free so you can use it where it can count more.

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You'll find an accommodating attitude whether we're talking about the length of a lease, the size of instalment, or fixed versus variable rate.

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You benefit by being able to plan your capital expenditure more effectively.

3. For an additional credit line, get us on this line.

In effect you gain an extra line of credit without tapping that ever valuable source, the bank.

4. Take the dents and bumps out of your vehicle fleet costs.

The substantial troughs and peaks associated with acquisition, maintenance and disposal of vehicles can be levelled out.

You make fixed monthly payments through a number of Leasing and Contract Hire options. (For those who already own their vehicles, we can give you their capital value now. You continue to use them, paying on a lease basis.)

With Contract Hire, you won't have the spectre of depreciation staring at you squarely from the company car park.

Secret service

ONCE the buccannering businessman, Alan Bond has become surprisingly bashful of late. The London office of his ailing Bond Corporation has changed its telephone number from the one published in its annual report and accounts — and has since gone ex-directory.

Carol Leonard

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Peel's view halloo

MORE at home in the Savoy Grill — where his son was temporarily a waiter — or on his ranch in Jackson Hole, Colorado, jet-setting old Etonian Charlie Peel, who with school chum Christopher Holdsworth Hunt, runs Peel Hunt, the institutional broker, is now going to be spending a lot more time in Leeds. He was there last night, celebrating the firm's expansion into the Yorkshire city, where it hopes to capitalise on Northern companies. The Leeds office is being run by Martin Ollard, aged 42, previously with Smith New Court, Hoare Govett and Grenfell and Colegrave. Ollard, known as "the Bishop" — "My grandfather was a bishop in Lancashire," he says — hails Leeds as the financial centre of the North. "There are twice the number of quoted companies around Leeds than around Manchester," says Ollard, a long-time Humberside resident. Meanwhile, true to form, Peel's northern adventures will not be without culinary comforts. He and his brother Robert group Mount Charlotte — own stakes in a restaurant there called La Grillade, and a wine bar, the Water Hole.

Only in Ireland

THE long-established Sligo law practice Argue and Phibbs will continue to brandish its singularly memorable name, even though new partners are

now in the driving seat and have taken top billing. The brass plate put up by Sean McTiernan and Eamon McGowan now brands the firm as McTiernan and McGowan, but the plate also carries the sub-heading: "Incorporating Argue and Phibbs." Founded in the 1930s by Willie Argue, the practice became Argue and Phibbs when Phibbs, his clerk, qualified and joined him. As if the name were not discouraging enough, its offices, opposite Sligo's law courts, are in Robbers Row.

DENIS Healey, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, was in good form when he addressed the Adam Smith conference in Edinburgh, attended by the great and the good of a libertarian persuasion to mark the 200th anniversary of the death of the author of *The Wealth of Nations*. "Britain is the only country in the world where the



"It would appear to pay better than TSB."

sex is safer than the food — as some of you may find out," he quipped, curiously. There was an awkward silence among the assembled delegates.

Good home found

LONG-RUNNING talks to save Kitcat & Aitken have finally borne fruit. Banque Indosuez, which already owns WI Carr, is understood to have signed the deal yesterday. The new division will be known as Carr, Kitcat & Aitken and will work alongside WI Carr. Up to 30 ex-Kitcat analysts and brokers — out of a total of 120 people made redundant — are expected to make the move. WI Carr's chief executive, Guy de Froment, signed the deal but was not available for comment. "We will be making a statement in due course," the company said. Ex-Kitcat employees are said to be far from happy at unconfirmed reports that RBC Dominion Securities, their former parent, insisted on £100,000 for the Kitcat & Aitken name.

GRAFFITO on the back of a dusty BBC van used for transporting musicians' instruments: "Politicians are like polkas — they have different names, but they all sound alike."

Guards called out

FORMER Scots Guards officers have been reuniting under the unlikely flag of Hill Samuel Unit Trusts, drawn by the fact that the company is sponsoring its own polo team for the next three years. Called — wait for it — the Hill Samuel Unit Trust team, it won its

first big prize this week when it trotted off with the Khalil Cup at Guard's Polo Club, Smiths Lawn. Led by Colonel Julian Lancaster, the team beat Love Locks 8-5½ and Lancaster, who has no connection with Hill Samuel other than the fact that he was in the Scots Guards with HSIL's chairman, Mark Tennant, scored three goals himself in the first chukka. "We do have lots of polo players here, but none of them are in this team — they're all too busy making money for Hill Samuel," says one insider. Hoping that the team will become one of the best in Britain, Tennant has been an active supporter whenever he can. He does, however, continue to commute between homes in London and Edinburgh — and a family pile at Elgin — spending three days a week down south. He is a cousin of Guinness chairman Anthony Tennant and son of Sir Iain Tennant, one of the few commoners to be created a Knight of the Thistle, the highest honour awarded in Scotland, other than the Order of the Garter.

Secret service

ONCE the buccannering businessman, Alan Bond has become surprisingly bashful of late. The London office of his ailing Bond Corporation has changed its telephone number from the one published in its annual report and accounts — and has since gone ex-directory.

Carol Leonard

5. Turn your invoices into instant cash.

The usual situation is, the more you sell, the worse the cashflow. With our invoice discounting, the more you sell, the more cash you get.

Right away. Up to 80% in fact, of all invoiced monies. You get the balance, less fees, as soon as the invoices are paid.

6. The time and energy you waste getting paid, you can now spend getting orders.

We can provide a full sales ledger service for you. So you can have a part of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group as your credit control department.

7. We can offer protection against the ultimate cashflow shock. The bad debt.

On approved invoices, you're protected. 100%. So you can even cease to worry about pursuing a debt from a company that goes down. Since you will get paid, by us.

If you agree that a restricted cashflow holding back your otherwise buoyant business is just too ironic, call us on 0536 402066.

We'll assess your particular needs and introduce you to a specialist.

You'll find speed and efficiency on offer, along with an enthusiasm for lubricating that all important item, Your cashflow.

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Name _____ Position _____ Company _____ Address _____ Telephone _____ Ext _____

RoyScot Finance Group
RoyScot Finance Group plc Registered in England No. 2011188
A member of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group.

TVS and Anglia 'most likely to lose franchise'

151

Competition hits E profit by				
<p>PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH, Inc., New York, has announced that it has acquired a 70 per cent interest in the London-based investment company, London & Co., Ltd., which was founded in 1875. The acquisition was completed on Jan. 1, 1964, and the company is now a subsidiary of P.F. & S. The company's assets include a portfolio of securities, real estate, and other investments. The acquisition is expected to result in increased profits for P.F. & S. and to provide a more diversified investment portfolio for its clients.</p>				
LONDON TRADE				
Gold	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Silver	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Platinum	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Palladium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Rhodium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Iridium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Osmium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Copper	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Aluminum	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Steel	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Iron	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Lead	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Zinc	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Nickel	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Vanadium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Chromium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Manganese	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Silicon	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Carbon	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Phosphorus	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Sulfur	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Chlorine	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Bromine	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Iodine	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Fluorine	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Helium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Neon	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Argon	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Krypton	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Xenon	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Radium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Polonium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Astatine	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Francium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Actinium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Thorium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Protactinium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Uranium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Nobelium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Lawrencium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Rutherfordium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Dubnium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Seaborgium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Bohrium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Hassium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Meitnerium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Darmstadtium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Röntgenium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Ununbium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Ununtrium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Ununquadium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Ununpentium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Ununhexium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Ununseptium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Ununoctium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Ununnilium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Ununundium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Ununtrium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Ununquadium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Ununpentium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Ununhexium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Ununseptium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Ununoctium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Ununnilium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Ununundium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Ununtrium	10			

Competition hits BPB profit by 37%

By MATTHEW BOND

FIERCE competition in Britain and the Continent has caused pre-tax profits at BPB Industries to tumble 37 per cent to £126.4 million in the year to March.

In Britain BPB, the former monopoly supplier of plasterboard, has been reduced to a 70 per cent market share. The other 30 per cent has been won through price cutting by new entrants to the sector, Redland-CSR, the Anglo-Australian grouping, and Knauff, the West German company. The competition has come as Britain's house-building industry, which accounts for 30 per cent of BPB sales, is in recession.

Alan Turner, the chairman of BPB, believes the British plasterboard market is contracting at the rate of 10 per cent a year.

BPP will boost its Erith plant and concentrate production at its three lowest cost, highest capacity units at Kirby Thore, East Leake and Robertsbridge. The company's new plant at Sharpness, although commissioned, is to be kept just "ticking over". Mr Turner said the cost of the rationalisation had been £18 million, with the £9 million group's paper and packaging division rose by £1 million to £29.5 million.

Since the year-end, the company has sold four non-gypsum businesses for £46 million. A final dividend of 7.25p a share (7p) is being paid to give a total of 11.25p (10.75p).

Tempos, page 23

redundancy payments to 400
workers being taken as an
exceptional item.

Although prices in Britain are being cut, Mr Turner said margins were still good. British turnover fell from £558 million to £530 million.

In November the Monopolies and Mergers Commission announced an investigation into the pricing of British plasterboard. BFB had hoped to be released from a price regime imposed on it in the Seventies. But it is still confident of benefiting from what has turned into a full investigation of the plasterboard industry.

Sales in mainland Europe account for almost 40 per cent of the group's total turnover of £1.03 billion.

Operating profits at the group's paper and packaging division rose by £1 million to £29.5 million.

Since the year-end, the company has sold four non-gypsum businesses for £46 million. A final dividend of 7.25p a share (7p) is being paid to give a total of 11.25p (10.75p).

Tempus, page 23



Alan Turner: believes the market is contracting at rate of 10 per cent a year

Younger named chairman of RBS

By Neil Bennett
Banking Correspondent

GEORGE Younger, the former defence secretary, has been appointed chairman of the Royal Bank of Scotland. He will replace Sir Michael Herries, who remains the chairman of the group.

The appointment, which takes effect from July 1, is the latest move in Mr Younger's rapid rise through the upper echelons of the bank. Mr Younger, 58, joined the bank as a non-executive director last August and was appointed deputy chairman in January. His appointment as chairman brings him a step closer to succeeding Sir Michael, who is 67.

Mr Younger had no previous banking experience. He served with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, before becoming a director in George Younger & Son, the family brewery.

He became an MP in 1964, and was Secretary of State for Scotland from 1979 to 1986, when he became defence secretary. He stepped down last year and said he would not stand for re-election.

Mr Younger remains one of Margaret Thatcher's closest supporters and was her campaign manager in her leadership battle against Sir Anthony Meyer last autumn.

AAH rises despite high interest rates

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK

AAH Holdings, the conglomerate best known as a building materials supplier and Britain's largest pharmaceutical wholesaler, has managed to increase overall profits despite difficult trading conditions as a result of high interest rates.

Pre-tax profits rose 9.3 per cent to £32.8 million on sales up 9.2 per cent to £1.01 billion in the year to March 31. Earnings per share climbed 10.3 per cent to 33.2p. A final dividend of 9p makes a total for the year of 13.5p, 13 per cent up on last year's 11.95p.

AAH's transport services and electrical supplies divisions suffered significant downturns in profitability. This was offset by a strong performance in the building supplies division, where operating profits climbed 12 per cent to a record £5.7 million.

Electrical supplies, hit by reduced consumer demand, reported operating profits of £7.4 million against £3 million

Sutcliffe jumps 62%

SUTCLIFFE Speakman, the sewage treatment equipment maker, increased pre-tax profits 62 per cent to £3 million in the year to end-March. Turnover was up 25 per cent to £54.9 million, helped by the acquisition of Greenbank Engineering in December. The dividend is being maintained at 2p for the third year running. The closure of Wymouth Lehr, the local making chemicals trade business, resulted in an extraordinary charge of £796,000. Eps before charge rose 25 per cent to 9.

dividend is being maintained at 2p for the third year running. The closure of Wynmouth Lehr, the long-making chemicals trading business, resulted in an extraordinary charge of £796,000. Eps before charge rose 25 per cent to 9.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

[illegible]

WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily ch'ge (%)	Yearly ch'ge (%)	Daily ch'ge (%)	Yearly ch'ge (%)	Daily ch'ge (US\$)	Yearly ch'ge (US\$)
The World	713.1	0.2	-15.5	0.0	-7.7	0.0	-8.8
(free)	136.1	0.2	-15.6	-0.1	-7.9	-0.1	-13.9
EAFE	1252.2	0.0	-19.6	-0.4	-11.9	-0.2	-13.7
(free)	128.3	0.0	-20.0	-0.6	-12.3	-0.3	-13.7
Europe	745.5	-0.2	-2.0	-0.1	0.3	0.5	5.6
(free)	160.1	-0.2	-2.1	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3
Nth America	500.5	0.6	-0.7	0.4	5.6	0.2	8.7
Nordic	1567.8	0.1	5.6	0.1	10.5	-0.1	13.9
(free)	248.4	0.1	-29.5	-0.7	-19.4	-0.1	-24.6
Pacific	2785.5	0.2	-30.1	-0.7	-19.9	-0.1	-28.0
Far East	494.4	0.2	-14.7	-0.6	-7.4	0.1	-8.0
Australia	296.3	-0.7	-14.7	-0.6	-7.4	0.6	34.5
Austria	1853.0	-0.3	24.7	-0.3	22.5	-0.8	-4.5
Belgium	871.3	-0.5	-11.5	0.4	-10.2	0.4	-11.2
Canada	494.5	-0.7	-17.6	0.0	3.8	-0.3	-7.7
Denmark	1313.8	0.9	-18.5	0.9	-14.7	0.6	-12.1
Finland	93.9	-0.5	-10.4	-0.5	-6.2	-0.8	-3.5
(free)	133.6	-0.2	-3.8	-0.2	0.5	-0.1	-8.1
France	778.0	-0.2	-3.8	0.2	6.5	-0.1	-8.1
Germany	920.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	16.2	-0.3	16.4
Hong Kong	2393.5	-0.1	7.9	0.3	0.6	4.4	0.2
Italy	366.6	0.5	0.5	0.7	-20.9	-0.1	-25.5
Japan	4245.7	0.2	-31.2	-0.7	-20.9	-0.1	-25.5
Netherlands	856.3	0.0	-9.4	0.0	-4.1	-0.3	-2.2
New Zealand	85.2	-0.4	-17.3	-0.6	-9.6	-0.7	-10.4
Norway	1469.5	-0.6	9.5	-0.7	14.9	-0.9	18.1
(free)	255.0	0.0	-2.1	-0.4	2.3	-0.2	-0.7
Sing/Malay	1959.8	0.0	-5.6	0.0	-4.7	-0.2	1.1
Spain	223.4	0.0	-5.6	0.0	-4.7	-0.2	1.1
Sweden	1804.1	0.9	2.9	0.9	6.2	0.3	19.1
(free)	268.6	0.6	10.9	0.6	15.7	0.3	19.1
Switzerland	943.3	-0.1	3.2	0.2	1.6	-0.4	-0.5
(free)	142.0	-0.3	1.7	-0.1	0.1	-0.5	9
UK	702.9	-0.6	-2.5	0.6	-2.5	-0.9	5
USA	454.0	0.6	-6.0	0.3	1.4	0.3	1

Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International

Dist. Local currency.

(6) Local currency.

Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International

40%^{*}
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PER LITRE.



It's amazing the amount of money you can save in the Duty Free Shop at BAA airports. Measure for measure, you can pay 40% less for spirits than you'll be charged in the High Street. That's on at least two dozen brands selected from the greatest national and international brand names – not just the five shown here. And because we regularly monitor prices, with an independent wiley, you'll always be sure to find savings of at least 20% on all our wines and spirits – plus a minimum 40% saving on all leading international cigarette brands.

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DUTY FREE SHOPPING

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* National & Low High Street price which is the average of prices in a number of High Street stores. † The national & Low price, minus of 10% discount.

*Source: Nielsen Consumer Research of representative UK High Street stores (January 2005)

Opening Times:
28th & 29th June 10am-5pm
30th June 10am-4pm

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From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your daily dividend figure. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Grand Mer (int)	Breweries	1.00
2	Pendragon	Motor, Aircraft	1.00
3	Blue Circle (int)	Building, Roads	1.00
4	Bank of Scotland	Banks, Discount	1.00
5	Royal Television (int)	Electronics	1.00
6	Graham	Property	1.00
7	Warner	Property	1.00
8	Admiral Comp	Electronics	1.00
9	Hepworth	Electronics E.K.	1.00
10	Hughes Robinson Plc	Draperies, Stores	1.00
11	Photo-Mc	Industrial E.K.	1.00
12	Shirley & Fisher	Shoes, Leather	1.00
13	Leigh	Chemicals, Plastics	1.00
14	Adelphi	Newsprint, Pub	1.00
15	Hugh & Hill	Industrial E.K.	1.00
16	Macro 4	Electronics	1.00
17	Harstone	Draperies, Stores	1.00
18	Russell (A)	Industrial E.K.	1.00
19	Serling Ind	Industrial E.K.	1.00
20	King & Shotton	Banks, Discount	1.00
21	King & Shotton	Banks, Discount	1.00
22	King & Shotton	Banks, Discount	1.00
23	King & Shotton	Banks, Discount	1.00
24	King & Shotton	Banks, Discount	1.00
25	King & Shotton	Banks, Discount	1.00
26	King & Shotton	Banks, Discount	1.00
27	King & Shotton	Banks, Discount	1.00
28	King & Shotton	Banks, Discount	1.00
29	King & Shotton	Banks, Discount	1.00
30	King & Shotton	Banks, Discount	1.00
31	King & Shotton	Banks, Discount	1.00
32	King & Shotton	Banks, Discount	1.00
33	King & Shotton	Banks, Discount	1.00
34	King & Shotton	Banks, Discount	1.00
35	King & Shotton	Banks, Discount	1.00
36	King & Shotton	Banks, Discount	1.00
37	King & Shotton	Banks, Discount	1.00
38	King & Shotton	Banks, Discount	1.00
39	King & Shotton	Banks, Discount	1.00
40	King & Shotton	Banks, Discount	1.00
41	King & Shotton	Banks, Discount	1.00
42	King & Shotton	Banks, Discount	1.00
43	King & Shotton	Banks, Discount	1.00
44	King & Shotton	Banks, Discount	1.00

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

There were no valid claims in the Portfolio Platinum competition yesterday. The £2,000 is added to today's prize.

BRITISH FUNDS

1990	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
101	101.00	101.00	101.00	101.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
102	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
103	103.00	103.00	103.00	103.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
104	104.00	104.00	104.00	104.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
105	105.00	105.00	105.00	105.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
106	106.00	106.00	106.00	106.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
107	107.00	107.00	107.00	107.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
108	108.00	108.00	108.00	108.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
109	109.00	109.00	109.00	109.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
110	110.00	110.00	110.00	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
111	111.00	111.00	111.00	111.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
112	112.00	112.00	112.00	112.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
113	113.00	113.00	113.00	113.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
114	114.00	114.00	114.00	114.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
115	115.00	115.00	115.00	115.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
116	116.00	116.00	116.00	116.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
117	117.00	117.00	117.00	117.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
118	118.00	118.00	118.00	118.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
119	119.00	119.00	119.00	119.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
120	120.00	120.00	120.00	120.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
121	121.00	121.00	121.00	121.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
122	122.00	122.00	122.00	122.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
123	123.00	123.00	123.00	123.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
124	124.00	124.00	124.00	124.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
125	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
126	126.00	126.00	126.00	126.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
127	127.00	127.00	127.00	127.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
128	128.00	128.00	128.00	128.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
129	129.00	129.00	129.00	129.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
130	130.00	130.00	130.00	130.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
131	131.00	131.00	131.00	131.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
132	132.00	132.00	132.00	132.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
133	133.00	133.00	133.00	133.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
134	134.00	134.00	134.00	134.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
135	135.00	135.00	135.00	135.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
136	136.00	136.00	136.00	136.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
137	137.00	137.00	137.00	137.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
138	138.00	138.00	138.00	138.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
139	139.00	139.00	139.00	139.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
140	140.00	140.00	140.00	140.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
141	141.00	141.00	141.00	141.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
142	142.00	142.00	142.00	142.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
143	143.00	143.00	143.00	143.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
144	144.00	144.00	144.00	144.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
145	145.00	145.00	145.00	145.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
146	146.00	146.00	146.00	146.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
147	147.00	147.00	147.00	147.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
148	148.00	148.00	148.00	148.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
149	149.00	149.00	149.00	149.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
150	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
151	151.00	151.00	151.00	151.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
152	152.00	152.00	152.00	152.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
153	153.00	153.00	153.00	153.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
154	154.00	154.00	154.00	154.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
155	155.00	155.00	155.00	155.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
156	156.00	156.00	156.00	156.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
157	157.00	157.00	157.00	157.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
158	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
159	159.00	159.00	159.00	159.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
160	160.00	160.00	160.00	160.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
161	161.00	161.00	161.00	161.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
162	162.00	162.00	162.00	162.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
163	163.00	163.00	163.00	163.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
164	164.00	164.00	164.00	164.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
165	165.00	165.00	165.00	165.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
166	166.00	166.00	166.00	166.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
167	167.00	167.00	167.00	167.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
168	168.00	168.00	168.00	168.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
169	169.00	169.00	169.00	169.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
170	170.00	170.00	170.00	170.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
171	171.00	171.00	171.00	171.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
172	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
173	173.00	173.00	173.00	173.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
174	174.00	174.00	174.00	174.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
175	175.00	175.00	175.00	175.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
176	176.00	176.00	176.00	176.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
177	177.00	177.00	177.00	177.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
178	178.00	178.00	178.00	178.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
179	179.00	179.00	179.00	179.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
180	180.00	180.00	180.00	180.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
181	181.00	181.00	181.00	181.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
182	182.00	182.00	182.00	182.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
183	183.00	183.00	183.00	183.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
184	184.00	184.00	184.00	184.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
185	185.00	185.00	185.00	185.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
186	186.00	186.00	186.00	186.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
187	187.00	187.00	187.00	187.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
188	188.00	188.00	188.00	188.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
189	189.00	189.00	189.00	189.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
190	190.00	190.00	190.00	190.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
191	191.00	191.00	191.00	191.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
192	192.00	192.00	192.00	192.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
193	193.00	193.00	193.00	193.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
194	194.00	194.00	194.00	194.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
195	195.00	195.00	195.00	195.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
196	196.00	196.00	196.00	196.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
197	197.00	197.00	197.00	197.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
198	198.00	198.00	198.00	198.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
199	199.00	199.00	199.00	199.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
200	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

67	Gas	10%	1980-85	+4.0	10.53%
68	Trans	10%	1985-90	+6.4	11.52%
69	Trans	10%	1990-95	+5.4	11.52%
70	Trans	10%	1995-00	+1.1	11.52%
71	Trans	12%	1987-91	+2.2	11.76%
72	Trans	10%	1991-95	+0.1	11.76%
73	Trans	10%	1995-00	-0.1	11.76%
74	Trans	10%	1990-95	+0.1	11.76%
75	Trans	10%	1995-00	+0.1	11.76%
76	Trans	10%	1990-95	+0.1	11.76%
77	Trans	10%	1995-00	+0.1	11.76%
78	Trans	10%	1990-95	+0.1	11.76%
79	Trans	10%	1995-00	+0.1	11.76%
80	Trans	10%	1990-95	+0.1	11.76%
81	Trans	10%	1995-00	+0.1	11.76%
82	Trans	10%	1990-95	+0.1	11.76%
83	Trans	10%	1995-00	+0.1	11.76%
84	Trans	10%	1990-95	+0.1	11.76%
85	Trans	10%	1995-00	+0.1	11.76%
86	Trans	10%	1990-95	+0.1	11.76%
87	Trans	10%	1995-00	+0.1	11.76%
88	Trans	10%	1990-95	+0.1	11.76%
89	Trans	10%	1995-00	+0.1	11.76%
90	Trans	10%	1990-95	+0.1	11.76%
91	Trans	10%	1995-00	+0.1	11.76%
92	Trans	10%	1990-95	+0.1	11.76%
93	Trans	10%	1995-00	+0.1	11.76%
94	Trans	10%	1990-95	+0.1	11.76%
95	Trans	10%	1995-00	+0.1	11.76%
96	Trans	10%	1990-95	+0.1	11.76%
97	Trans	10%	1995-00	+0.1	11.76%
98	Trans	10%	1990-95	+0.1	11.76%
99	Trans	10%	1995-00	+0.1	11.76%
100	Trans	10%	1990-95	+0.1	11.76%

Yugoslav squad finds harmony at work and play to mount genuine challenge for World Cup honours in quarter-finals

Osim reaps deserved rewards

Lake Garda

THE Yugoslav squad yesterday left their lakeside hotel here for Montecatini, to prepare for the quarter-final against Argentina in Florence tomorrow, and is mentally more adjusted than any since the halcyon days of 1962, when Jusufi, Sekularac, Skoblar and the rest reached the semi-final in Chile. The reason is to be found in Ivan Osim.

The tall, round-shouldered team manager, an oldish 48, moves paternally among his players like a big friendly bear. The small hotel, with lawns leading down to the water's edge where fishing boats and speed boats loll in the heat-haze, is open house to expatriate Yugoslavs from around the world: tanned Californians whose emotions stir as the team gathers momentum and sends them hurrying to the airport.

Ante Pavlovic, the Yugoslav Federation general secretary, plays the piano in the lounge here, while players on the veranda ponder over a game of chess. Serbs, Croats and Montenegrins rub shoulders in harmony, religious and political differences out of sight. Even the usual financial squabbles have been quelled, thanks to Osim.

This is the former classic inside forward whom Norman Hunter backed out of the game for six months when England were losing the European championship semi-final in Florence 22 years ago. Dragan Drazic, scorer of the only goal that day, now stands in the shade of a palm tree, reminiscing.

The Yugoslav Federation is not noted for its tact in handling bonuses, but Osim and his general manager, Miljan Miljanic, have negotiated that the players share 20 per cent of World Cup revenue. If they beat Argentina,

Coach is in good heart

IVAN Osim, the Yugoslav coach, has only one injury doubt for the quarter-final against Argentina in Florence tomorrow. Refic Sabanadzovic, who did a good job in marking Emilio Butronic, of Spain, has a swollen knee but he is expected to fit.

Osim said: "Our players should all be fit for the match and, no matter what I say from



DAVID MILLER
ON THE
WORLD CUP

that could be more than £20,000 each.

Before the second round against Spain, Osim waived any question of his own bonus. "You take what you want," he said to the players and training staff, "and I'll have anything that's left over." He has the players' unwavering confidence, on and off the field.

Against Spain, in the furnace of the afternoon sun in Verona, Osim schemed a waiting game for his team, inviting any question of his own bonus. "You take what you want," he said to the players and training staff, "and I'll have anything that's left over." He has the players' unwavering confidence, on and off the field.

No national press is more volatile or critical than the Yugoslavs. Osim shrugs off the attacks good humouredly, as though they were nothing more than bothersome ants, instead of falling into the state of hyper-sensitivity of some team managers. "If the journalists have stimulated my players, they have indeed done a fantastic job," Osim says, tongue in cheek.

His most difficult hurdle was in the qualifying competition against Scotland, France, Norway and Cyprus, when he persisted with calling up the foreign-based players rather than accepting the press and public demand for home players from Red Star, Partizan and Dinamo Zagreb, with whom the public was more familiar. Only two points were dropped, away to Scotland and France.

Here in the finals, he is the touchline, they are the only guys who can win it."

He hinted that Dejan Savicevic, of Red Star Belgrade, whose display as a substitute against Spain has already sparked transfer speculation, would again start the match on the bench. "Savicevic is our secret weapon, a player who performs best over short periods," Osim said.

managing to blend ball-players, such as the exceptional Stojkovic and Susic, with runners: so much so that he wishes Katanec, his midfield player from Sampdoria, would run a little less. "He should use his intelligence to support the other clever players more," Osim says.

Against West Germany in the opening match, Yugoslavia showed their familiar vulnerability, but not the rationalisation of their system, a compromise between their traditional strolling touch-play and Irish-style bod-carrying, that has brought them to within a stride of the semi-final.

"The problem in trying to adapt your game is not forgetting what you do best," Osim says. "The Netherlands pass the ball and move as well as any team, they know everything, but against Germany they forgot that at times, and became too engaged in being physical."

Stojkovic, who moves to Marseille next season, is a dribbler equivalent to Maradona: less robust, less able to ride tackles as Maradona did before chronic injury, yet with a floating grace that appears to require no effort. He passed defenders as though they were not there: a great player.

"As long as the ball got round the wall, it had the spin to be in the net," Stojkovic says, casually, of the stunning free kick that brought victory on Tuesday in extra time. His sports shirt seems two sizes too large; he is as slim as a ballet dancer. Even off duty, cat-like, his weight is on the ball of the foot.

"Osim has given us self-confidence," he says, almost distantly. He has an artist's detached, self-absorbed air.

For Miljanic, success is the reward of many years' work, guiding players through the under-16, under-19 and Olympic squads towards the senior side. "Stojkovic is only 25, and he has been with us for national training for 11 years since his first youth camp in 1979," Miljanic says. "This is a family team."

And off he goes on another round of introducing his players — his children — to this and that friend who has dropped by to wish them luck. This is one Yugoslav side that will not lose on psychological shortcomings.



Ace in the Yugoslav pack: Stojkovic is all grace

Clubs unlikely to strike a World Cup sales bargain

From CLIVE WHITE IN ROME

AFTER the way Italy's young talent has acquitted itself in these World Cup finals, you could be forgiven for thinking that its clubs had little need to go prospecting elsewhere. But the qualities of players like Baggio come expensive — even before a World Cup — and doubtless the bargains of Eastern Europe and South America will continue to figure high on the shopping list of leading Italian clubs, and those of Spain, too.

The Fiorentina supporters, who caused such a furore over the departure of Baggio to Juventus for £5 million, may feel less inclined towards rioting following the astute purchase of Lacatus, the tall and, in every respect, striking Romanian, of Steaua Bucharest, for £1.6 million. Gone are the days, though, when Eastern Europeans could be signed for a song. Further proof of that is provided by the £1.4 million which Rangers were prepared to pay for Kuznetsov, the 30-year-old Soviet defender from Dynamo Kiev.

With Hagi, the club and international striking partner of Lacatus, already on his way to Real Madrid, Romanian currency, if only among its players, has never been higher. Nor are the desperate attempts to end there. Popescu has done more than enough to suggest that he might soon be playing for a club of considerably greater stature than Universitatea Craiova.

Other East Europeans who are bound to have caught the eye include two Czechoslovaks, Skuhravy and Chovanec, both of whom have the chance to impress further on Sunday.

Skuhravy, the leading scorer in the tournament with five goals, is the sort of goalscorer who would be more appreciated in England than on the Continent. He has chosen his time

well to find the target in Italy after scoring just four goals in his first 18 international appearances.

His former club colleague, Chovanec, has further evidence that there is more to him than FSV Eintracht have so far been shown. Bought by the Dutch club as the eventual replacement for Ronnie Koeman at the end of his contract, Chovanec, aged 30, has since been converted into a midfield player of exceptional touch and vision.

Up and coming South American forward talent looks in short supply, judging by these finals. Sosa, the Uruguayan, did nothing for his reputation, least of all with the penalty miss against Spain, although Lazio might be pressed to hold on to his signature. Likewise, AS Roma can expect to be made several offers that they cannot refuse from fellow Italian clubs for the services of Giannini. T. A. Brant, the Costa Rican forward whose exciting pace helped to turn the game against Sweden, but, unfortunately, the most impressive South American have been found in defence, and in particular, in goal.

Before the finals it would have been difficult to imagine anyone upstaging Higuita, the Colombian adventurer, even before his blunder against Cameroon. But for pure ability without the showmanship, Conejo, of Costa Rica, takes some beating.

Solid and reliable in the Shilton mould, Conejo is not averse to parrying or pushing away shots when the occasion demands, which he does with more judgment than luck. At least one of the fashionable Spanish clubs must have been taken with the players from the unfashionable Ramonense club.

Football quiz winners

FIFTEEN readers of *The Times* have won a set of two of the best sports videos of the year. The winners of our recent football quiz will receive *The History of the World Cup 1986-1990* and *The Bobby Charlton Story*, both released by Video Collection International.

The winners are: D. G. Hill, of Corner Street, Oldswinford, near Shrewsbury; Ken Shaw, of Fordham Road, Sandhurst; L. Davis, of The Birches, Cove, Farnborough, Hampshire; B. Cross, of Ostview, Rainham, Kent; Jonathan Brodwin, of Kingsley Way, London N2; Steve McConning, of Laven Way, Leigh, Greater Manchester; G. C. Flintoff, of High Street, Great Broughton,

Cascarino has known penalty of failure

TWO men had special reasons to bury their heads in their hands when Tony Cascarino and Andy Townsend stepped up to take their penalties in the shoot-out at Genoa that has already become part of Italian lore.

Cascarino's appearance on the Republic's roster of penalty takers against Romania astonished his former manager at Gillingham, Keith Peacock. Cascarino was entrusted with one penalty while on the staff at Priestfield, missed it and was not asked to take another.

Townsend's first club was Welling United and their general manager, Graham Hobbs, said: "When I saw Andy step up I thought to myself 'Oh my God'. It brought back memories of a similar occasion seven years ago when Welling found themselves in a shoot-out against a Southern League Cup replay at Folkestone.

"It was about 10.15 after extra-time and the score on penalties was 5-5, when Andy stepped up to take what would have been the winner. But he shot over the bar."

Just the ticket

HONESTY paid for a Rome doctor, Andrea Maria Fracarelli, when he handed in a wallet, containing £3.5 million (£1,700) in travellers cheques, which had been lost by an Irish journalist.

Fracarelli took his find to the World Cup press centre... and left with a ticket to the Italy match against the Republic, for value £70; street value £150 and rising.

Empty tables

ROME's restaurant owners and hoteliers say their takings are 50 per cent down on June last year. "The World Cup organisers are making gold out of the finals and silver out of the qualifiers," Giorgio Bodoni, who represents 1,800 of the capital's restaurants, said.

"There just isn't a strategy for tourists. Organisers made one mistake after another, saying everything was sold out since April and giving tickets for the games to sponsors and big companies and cutting out travel agencies."

WALTER GAMMIE

Court of Appeal

When interest on costs is not payable

Legal Aid Board v Russell

Before Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Butler-Sloss and Lord Justice Taylor. [Judgment June 28]

Where a plaintiff accepted money paid into court by the defendant in settlement of his claim, his entitlement to the costs of his action arose out of the Rules of the Supreme Court and not from any specific judgment or order to which the Judgments Act 1838 applied. Accordingly such a plaintiff was unable to recover interest on costs so obtained, unless he became entitled to apply for a judgment on costs under Order 45, rule 15.

The Court of Appeal so stated allowing an appeal by the defendant, Dennis Russell, from Judge Doherty, QC, sitting as a judge of the High Court, who had dismissed his appeal (77 Times May 23, 1989) from the ruling of Mr Registrar Donaldson in the Oxford District Registry that the plaintiff, John Edward Woodley, was entitled to interest on the sum of £35,000 paid into court in settlement of his claim.

By an order of substitution made in respect of the appeal, the Legal Aid Board was substituted for Mr Woodley.

Mr Dermot O'Brien, QC and Lord Meston for Mr Russell; Mr Duncan Matheson, QC and Mr Christopher Frazer for the board.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that it was well known that only a small proportion of the writs issued out of the High Court ever resulted in a trial. In most cases parties reached agreement at an earlier stage and it was wholly in the public interest that that should be so.

Many such settlements resulted from the defendants making a payment into court under Order 22 of the Rules of the Supreme Court. The plaintiff then had a short time in which to decide whether to accept the money in satisfaction of his claim. If he did so, he was entitled to his costs of the action.

So many actions settled in that way that the rules provided an automatic drill. The defendant paid the money into court, and using Form 23, gave notice of that to the plaintiff who, if he decided to accept, gave notice of that to the defendant using Form 24.

The effect of such proceedings was to stay all further proceedings, the relation to the cause of action, to authorise the Accountant-General to pay the money to the plaintiff, to entitle the plaintiff to recover his taxed costs of the action up to the date of payment in and to authorise the taxation of those costs without any specific order for such taxation and payment.

The only circumstance in which the plaintiff needed to or could do more than give notice of acceptance was if the defen-

dant failed to pay the taxed costs within four days after taxation. The plaintiff might then sign judgment for the amount of the costs pursuant to Order 45, rule 15 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

Where a specific order for costs was made, the beneficiary under the order was entitled to interest on the amount of those costs from "the time of entering up the judgment... until the same shall be satisfied" pursuant to section 17 of the Judgments Act 1838.

In *Hunt v R. M. Douglas (Roofing) Ltd* ([1990] AC 398) the House of Lords had ruled that the "time of entering up the judgment" was when the order for costs was made (the *incipitur* rule, not from the date on which the taxation of costs was completed (the *allocatur* rule)).

What was now suggested on the appeal was that the streamlined procedure which relieved the plaintiff of any need to apply to the court for an order for costs and a taxation of costs where he simply accepted money paid into court in satisfaction of his claim had, incidentally and without doubt accidentally, deprived him of any right to interest on those costs, unless and until he became entitled to apply for a judgment of the costs under Order 45, rule 15. Even then, the order would only accrue from the date of that judgment.

It was with the greatest regret that his Lordship had come to the conclusion that there was no escape from such an anomalous result.

His Lordship, having set out the provisions of section 17 and 18 of the 1838 Act, and referred to the form of order in *Hunt*, said that that case was not without interest because it, not *Fisher v Dudding* ([1841] 9 Dowd 872) which it extensively cited, showed that it was not necessary to have a formal judgment or order to attract the operation of the 1838 Act.

The pronouncement of a decision that the costs should be paid by one party to another was sufficient, at least if a note was made in the cause book or other official record.

The insuperable difficulty confronting the plaintiff and the Legal Aid Fund lay in the fact that, as the court had confirmed by enquiry, there was no record, formal or informal, of a decision that the plaintiff should be entitled to his costs and indeed no such specific decision.

There was a record of the notice of acceptance of the money in court, and of the payment out, but the first was merely an authority to the Accountant-General to pay out the money and the second was merely a record that he did so.

Mr Matheson submitted that the effect of Order 22, rule 3 and of Order 62, rule 5(4) was that in every case where the plaintiff accepted money in court, the court notionally awarded the plaintiff his costs.

His Lordship thought it was impossible to contend that the plaintiff's entitlement to costs in the circumstances of accepting a payment into court could arise

out of a judicial decision either generally or specifically.

It arose because the Rules of the Supreme Court so provided, and those rules were legislative not judicial in character. Authority to make the rules was derived from section 84 of the Supreme Court Act 1981, and they were made by statutory instrument which was subject to the negative resolution procedure.

The fact that the majority of the members of the Supreme Court Rule Committee happened to be judges did not alter the character of their activity, which was a subordinate legislative activity.

The plaintiff became entitled to his costs not because the judges so decided, but because the law gave him that entitlement.

Mr Matheson further submitted that section 18 of the 1838 Act was drawn sufficiently widely to cover entitlement

arising under the Rules of the Supreme Court, since it referred to "all rules of the courts of common law" which "shall have the effect of judgments".

That submission failed no better. The 1838 Act was to be construed in the light of the meaning which the words used bore at the time of its enactment. At that time "rules" denoted decisions or rulings by the judiciary on a case-by-case basis. It was clearly in that sense that section 18 referred to "rules of courts of common law".

Under Order 62, rule 3(2) the general rule was that no party was entitled to recover any of the costs of the proceedings from any other party except under an order of the court and rule 3(3) gave the court a discretion whether to make such an order. If it did so, the entitlement to interest arose under the 1838 Act.

The only cases providing exceptions to the general rule in

Law Report June 29 1990

Bylaws made under repealed Act rendered valid

DPP v Jackson and Another. Before Lord Justice Farnsworth and Mr Justice Allott. [Judgment June 8]

The fact the Local Government Act 1933 had been repealed did not affect the validity of bylaws made under section 23 of that Act as they were rendered valid by section 272(2) of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in allowing a prosecutor's appeal by way of case stated from the dismissal by Miss Audrey Jennings, Wells Street Magistrate, on March 8, 1989, of an information against the first defendant, Simon Jackson and the second defendant, Nasserdoine Belokda, alleging gross indecency with another person in a public place contrary to section 23 of the 1933 Act and bylaw 23 of the Westminster City Bylaws. The case was not remitted to the magistrates' court.

The court had been divided 2-2 on the question of whether the bylaws were valid. The majority, consisting of Mr Justice Farnsworth and Mr Justice Allott, held that they were valid.

Section 38 of the Interpretation Act 1889 provides: "(1) Where this Act or any Act passed after the commencement of this Act repeals or re-enacts, with or without modification, any provisions of a former Act, references in any other Act to the provisions so repealed, shall, unless the contrary intention appears, be construed as references to the provisions so re-enacted."

Section 272 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides: "(2) Without prejudice to section 38(1) of the Interpretation Act 1889, where this Act repeals any enactment making provision with respect to a particular matter... and either makes or applies some other enactment making corresponding or different provision with respect to that matter... then, unless the contrary intention appears... references in any enactment other than this Act, or in any instrument made under any enactment other than this Act, to the repealed enactment shall be construed as references to the enactment contained in or applied by this Act which makes the corresponding or different provision."

that no order was required, no order was ever made and a party became nevertheless entitled to costs, were set out in Order 65, rule 5.

His Lordship believed that the situation was not intended, and was wholly illogical. It needed to be remedied at the earliest possible moment.

While that could be achieved by revoking Order 65, rule 5, which would involve litigants and the courts in the wholly unnecessary labour of applying for and making specific orders for costs in all such cases, the preferred course was that a short and relatively simple amendment could be made to the 1838 Act when parliamentary time allowed.

Meanwhile his Lordship had no option but to allow the appeal.

Lord Justice Butler-Sloss and Lord Justice Taylor agreed.

Solicitors: Vizards, Cole & Cole, Reading.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH said that in 1964 Mr Jones, the owner of the house, agreed with Mr Bryant, the husband of the first defendant, that the Bryant family should occupy the whole of the house except for one room occupied by Mr Jones.

As a result of the arrangement apparently made, Mr Jones paid the general and water rates, and the Bryant family paid the gas and electricity bills, in both cases in respect of the whole house.

It was asserted by the defendants at the trial that the

natural explanation for the payment by the Bryants of the gas and electricity bills was simply that they were sharing the expenses of the household and paying for the utilities so consumed, while Mr Jones paid the rates and the water rates.

In those circumstances the inference should not be drawn that the payments were rent. Moreover, there seemed much force in Mr Hodgson's submission, based on *Barnes v Barratt* ([1970] 2 QB 657, 667-669), that for the purposes of the rent Acts rent had to be payment in money terms and not comprise the satisfaction of bills from time to time.

There was a further difficulty in the judge's conclusion. There could only be a rent Act-protected tenancy if the rent was not less than two-thirds of the rateable value on the appropriate day.

It was not clear whether the judge's view was that the "rent" was the whole of the payments for the gas and electricity bills or only that part attributable to Mr Jones's consumption, but, if it was his Lordship thought, he had taken the latter view, the amount would have fluctuated between more than and less than two-thirds of the rateable value depending on the season of the year.

For those and other reasons the appeal should be allowed, and it was not necessary to deal with the question whether if a tenancy had been created it was a periodic one.

Sir Rouseley Cumming-Bruce agreed.

Solicitors: Watson Marshall, Hammer Smith; Lock & Marborough, Acton.

Payment of household bills does not constitute rent

Bostock v Bryant and Another. Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Sir Rouseley Cumming-Bruce. [Judgment June 27]

Where the occupants of part of a house paid the gas and electricity bills for the house and there was no express agreement that those payments were made as "rent", the inference to be drawn was that the payments simply represented a contribution to the household expenses and were not rent.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Mr Francis Albert Bostock, the executor of the will of Mr Owen Henry Jones, deceased, from Judge Barr who on January 12, 1990 in Brentford County Court had dismissed the plaintiff's claim against the defendants, Mrs Patricia Bryant and Miss Karen Bryant, for possession of a house in Berrymore Road, Acton Green, Chiswick, London.

Mr John Hodgson for the plaintiff; Mr David Edlin for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH said that in 1964 Mr Jones, the owner of the house, agreed with Mr Bryant, the husband of the first defendant, that the Bryant family should occupy the whole of the house except for one room occupied by Mr Jones.

As a result of the arrangement apparently made, Mr Jones paid the general and water rates, and the Bryant family paid the gas and electricity bills, in both cases in respect of the whole house.

It was asserted by the defendants at the trial that the

plaintiff now challenged the judge's finding that there was a periodic tenancy at a rent. Mr Hodgson accepted, on the facts, that there was a tenancy, but that it was not a rent Act-protected tenancy, and there was no rent Act ground for possession.

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Court of Appeal

Trailer brakes must be efficient

Director of Public Prosecutions v Young

Before Lord Justice Leggatt and Mr Justice Nolan. [Judgment June 28]

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SPORT

Lendl's quest gathers pace

By ANDREW LONGMORE
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

IVAN Lendl had more trouble trying to define the word "obsession" than he did in reaching the third round at the All England tennis championships at Wimbledon yesterday.

The No. 1 seed beat Jakob Hlasek 6-1, 6-3, 6-0 in a mere 78 minutes to set up a fourth-round match against Bryan Shelton. The way he is playing at the moment, Lendl needs no further encouragement to win the title, but he seemed to win anyway when Henri Leconte was beaten by the robust Alex Antonitsch, of Austria, in five sets. The Frenchman was due to meet Lendl in the last 16.

He then turned to his musings on the English language. Given a number of alternatives to describe his quest for the Wimbledon title fixation, ruling passion, monomania, he decided on "desire" but preferred the Czech word *zavazany*. "That means very much into it, stubborn almost. But make sure you get the pronunciation right because it sounds like another word, which is a dirty word."

Thankfully, he did not elaborate. Nor did he need to against Hlasek, who lost his first four and last three service games and never came to terms with Lendl's devastating return of service. "The returns came very low and very fast," Hlasek said. "A lot of times I was surprised by the speed."

The big Swiss was seeded six here last year and two years ago actually beat Lendl, the only time he has done so in seven meetings, in the Masters. A combination of injury and lack of belief has halted the progress and the road back may not be easy. But he is now a confirmed member of the Wimbledon branch of the Lendl fan club.

"He always was able to beat anybody at Wimbledon, but on grass it's a lot the mental thing. That's how it's been in the last couple of years. He made me look bad because he played good," he added.

Even excluding Hlasek, a Czech-born Swiss, the afternoon had a distinctly Czechoslovak flavour. Lendl was followed on to centre court by Martina Navratilova and Miloslav Mecir, who enjoyed differing fortunes. The former made short work of Anne Smith, the latter was heavily beaten by the No. 2 seed, Stefan Edberg.

Edberg only took two minutes longer than Lendl to reach the third round and, like McEnroe on Tuesday, the demise was said to watch. Mecir never seemed to exert himself; that was his delight. But, troubled by a persistent back injury for much of the last year, he has lost his touch too. Two years ago, he had led Edberg by two sets to love in the semi-final at Wimbledon, only to lose with characteristic and casual charm in five.



More Wimbledon page 39

Edberg, of course, went on to win the title, so must be hoping that history will repeat itself.

The dominance of the centre-court specialists seemed to spread to the outside courts, where all but one of the seeds progressed. The exception was Ros Fairbank-Nideffer, the No. 15 seed, who was beaten by Amy Frazier. Even that went strictly to form, because since the seedings were announced Frazier has moved one place above Fairbank in the rankings.

The one minor shock was provided by a suspicious package found by the entrance to the main gates, which caused the main concourse and courts three, four and five to be evacuated for half an hour. The delay produced perhaps the longest match point in the history of the game, as the doubles pair of Mercedes Paz and Arantxa Sánchez-Vicario were within a point of victory when they had to leave the court. They finished the job as soon as they returned.

The most interesting match of the day featured Gabriela Sabatini and Andre Kuznetsov. Sabatini comes from Steffi Graf country and, at the age of 15, has already been dubbed the new Graf, which is not entirely fair. According to her coach, Boris Breskvar, who guided both Graf and Becker in the early part of their junior careers, Huber does not have the athleticism of Graf. But on yesterday's showing she seems to have the same overwhelming dislike of losing.

Stricken by nerves in only her second match at Wimbledon, the West German, ranked 50th in the world, lost the first set in a welter of netted forehands and overhit two-handed backhands. But by the middle of the second she was beginning to gain control of her jitters.

At 5-2 down in the second, she must have reckoned there was little to lose in exploring some acute angles and changes of pace. The tactics seemed to surprise Sabatini, who has had a wretched year and is clearly short of confidence.

The combination of Huber's renewed vigour and Sabatini's growing insecurity at least put a sting in the tale of the match. Huber winning four games in a row and saving five match points before going out. The No. 4 seed now meets Catherine Tanvier in the third round, while Huber moves down a grade to play in the junior singles.



The clown prince: but Leconte, the king of Wimbledon's entertainers, lost a good-humoured struggle yesterday

Laughing cavalier bows out

By REX BELAMY

A BURST of the Harry Line theme would have been appropriate when Alex Antonitsch came off court two at Wimbledon yesterday. The Third Man of Austria's Davis Cup team had beaten Henri Leconte, the dashing cavalier of French tennis, 2-6, 6-4, 7-6, 2-6, 6-3 in a match that had joyously entertained us for two and three-quarter hours.

Win or lose, Leconte is usually good value for money. He had a wise and willing foil in Antonitsch, who let the fireworks crackle around him without disturbing his concentration on the essentials of service, volley, and service return - in all of which, Antonitsch was slightly the more consistent if, inevitably, less spectacular.

This lively and happy match was punctuated by odd incidents and outbursts of laughter. These began when the assistant referee came on court to tap over the label on Leconte's bottle of mineral

water. Later, an apparent ace by Leconte was bleeped by the electronic line monitor, whereupon Leconte was warned for uttering an obscenity and, amid confusion about the score, both players had a amiable chat with the umpire.

When Leconte mis-hit a winning ball, Antonitsch called out: "If you feel sorry, say sorry." "It's a good racket," responded Leconte. "Is it a Head, from Austria?" Antonitsch asked. In the next game, Leconte's service swing collapsed into incredulity (Leconte can look wonderfully incredulous) when he was interrupted by the echoing public address system: "This is a staff announcement."

Then Leconte hurled towards the press seats and a reporter from Vienna who politely gave him a "Bonjour". And when Leconte was ultimately beaten, he continued his dash, round the net, to shake Antonitsch's hand and put an arm round the Austrian's shoulder. Le-

conte gave his racket to a ball boy.

All that is worth detailing because, in recent years, there has been a misconception, among a minority of players and spectators, that colour and humanity and excitement arise from the ugly side of court conduct. Antonitsch and Leconte offered contrasts in ability, method and personality, but were at one in their enjoyment of the game and each other's company. This was the way tennis used to be; and always should be.

We were reminded of the cliché that talent does what it can and genius does what it must (which does not always make sense). Antonitsch - as a player and as a delightfully natural show-off who was born to excel in the entertainment business.

Leconte's uninhibited nature craves adventure, risk and the imaginative thrills provoked by instinct rather than calculated thinking. So

he is prodigal, often reckless, in spending a wealth of ability that combines power with touch. He is, at once, alarming and enchanting: the unthinking man's tennis player.

Antonitsch, a large man with a ready smile, plays his best tennis on fast surfaces, as Boris Becker recently found out at Queen's Club. He has an equable temperament, too. He knew that he could do nothing about Leconte when the latter was "firing" (as happened in the first and fourth sets).

But Antonitsch was equally aware that as long as he did his own thing as well as he could, there was a chance that the wayward Leconte would finish up on the wrong end of the profit and loss account. Thus it was.

The crux came in the fifth set, when Leconte had four break points, lost the lot - and was not quite tidy enough to hold his own service in the eighth game. With that, some of the joy went out of Wimbledon.

Ultimatum for Lineker from fearful Robson

From STUART JONES,
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT,
NAPLES

More World Cup page 35

GARY Lineker must make an appearance in the San Paolo Stadium in Naples 48 hours ahead of schedule if he is to be confirmed as the leader of the England attack against Cameroon there on Sunday night. Unless he joins the training session tonight, he risks being omitted.

Bobby Robson, the England manager, was concerned that Lineker, the scorer of seven of England's last ten goals in the World Cup, was again unable to practise yesterday. He has done so only once in slippers, since he damaged his big right toe in the first-round tie against the Netherlands on June 16.

"He's fit enough to play but he's not fit enough to train," Bobby Robson said. "I'll have to work that out."

The equation represents a difference in attitude. Apart from being reluctant to run around in the sweltering, breathless heat of the day, Lineker believes that there is little point in aggravating the injury.

He has required a pain killing injection in each of the last two games, and the effect begins to wear off early in the second half. Bobby Robson explained that the medication, which freezes the toe, is administered as close to the kick-off as possible. That has been at 8.45pm local time, 15 minutes before the start.

Bryan Robson, when he was suffering from a similar complaint in the early stages of the tournament, chose to have a second injection during the interval. Lineker has rejected the option so far, and Bobby Robson would rather that he did not need even one appointment with the doctor.

"He's not been one hundred per cent," he said. "He can't feel the toe, so that must be inhibiting. I wouldn't know myself. I've never played with an injection because they didn't have that sort of treatment in my day. There would be no sense in him having one just to train."

But he confirmed that he needs to be reassured about Lineker's fitness before com-

pleting his plans for the quarter-final. He was also disturbed to learn that his principal forward faces another potential problem. The linesmen on Sunday will be comparatively inexperienced officials, from the United States and Bahrain.

"Is that right?" Bobby Robson asked incredulously. A prolonged pause ensued before he recalled that an Austrian linesman made two potentially costly errors during the victory over Belgium on Tuesday. On two separate occasions he adjudged that Barnes and Lineker were offside. The evidence of television clearly indicated otherwise.

"The officials are so important, and particularly for Lineker," Bobby Robson said. "Like Greaves, he is a master at timing his run." First of all, Lineker must convince the manager that he is not also a master of disguise. "I'm going to make him train tomorrow," Bobby Robson said.

Walker will be allowed to rest, as will Barnes and Hodge, the victims of groin strains which have overtaken bruised toes as the most common ailment.

The other casualty in midweek, Gascoigne, has already dismissed the possibility that he might be unavailable. Gascoigne was thought to be suffering from fatigue until he was found nonchalantly playing tennis against an American as the temperature rose to 90. "He's a young kid who should learn to conserve his energy," Bobby Robson said. "He just cannot sit still. He's so hyperactive that he needs a bodyguard."

Offside change to help forward play

ROME (Reuters) - Changes in the laws of football to give forwards more protection from offside and to make it compulsory for referees to send off players who commit so-called professional fouls were made official yesterday.

The international board which governs the game decided to amend the rules, allowing attacking players who are in line with the last but one defender to remain onside.

The board also agreed to write into the laws FIFA's instructions to referees, introduced for the World Cup finals, to clamp down on violent play and professional fouls. The body, in which FIFA has four votes and the four British football associations one each as founders of the game, made it obligatory for all players in all competitions to wear shin guards as standard equipment.

The FIFA spokesman, Andreas Herren, said that the changes would come into effect at the start of the next season in each member country.

FIFA outlawed the professional foul before the World Cup finals, ordering referees to send off players who bring down an attacker

who had broken clear of the defence, thus earning a chance to shoot at goal.

The instructions to World Cup referees ordering them to show the red card to players who tackle from behind or commit violent fouls were also made part of the rules.

The alteration in the offside law, though it is welcome, promises to have only the most marginal effect (Stuart Jones writes). The difference between being behind or level with the last defender is so fine that it represents scarcely anything more substantial than the width of an upright.

Whenever linesmen must make instant judgments, they invariably give the defender the benefit of the doubt anyway. Changing the rule by a matter of a few inches when viewed at a distance, and in the blink of an eye, is hardly likely to herald a new age of adventure.

FIFA, though, must amend another of its ideas as soon as possible and, without question before the next World Cup. Linesmen should not be referees, as is the utterly illogical case in this latest tournament. The lines should be run by officials who are accustomed to the specific duty.

Chester's expulsion now seems likely

By IAN ROSS

ARTHUR Sandford, the chief executive of the Football League, fears that Chester City, of the third division, will be expelled from the League before the start of next season.

Chester faces the prospect of losing its status after 106 years because it is unable to tell the football authorities exactly where it intends to play following the sale of its Sealand Road ground to a property development com-

pany. "The situation is now acute to say the very least. I hope that Chester City will still be in the Football League next season, but I fear that they won't be," Sandford said. Chester's plan to share the ground of non-League Macclesfield Town was blocked by the League last Friday after Morrison Developments, the company which purchased Sealand Road for £1.5 million, failed to pay three security bonds totalling £650,000.

With the League adamant that it will not now sanction the proposed move to Macclesfield, Chester's only chance of survival is to persuade a neighbouring Football League club to offer a ground-sharing facility.

If Chester is unable to persuade Morrison Developments to allow League football to be played at Sealand Road next season, the League's management committee will meet in emergency session to decide the club's fate.

The Football League has dismissed Sheffield Wednesday's call for an emergency general meeting to overturn the decision to promote Sunderland to the first division. Wednesday, who were relegated from the first division last season, announced yesterday that they had taken legal advice on the League management committee's right to rule that Sunderland should replace Swindon in the first division next year.

Hemmings under pressure from young rivals

By ALAN LEE,
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

GRAHAM Gooch, the England captain, admitted at the end of the drawn second Test at Lord's that he was disappointed with his team. This was refreshingly frank; not for this captain, it seems, the easy excuses which lower credibility. The question, with one match left in which to settle the Cornhill series, is: What can be done?

England were outplayed by New Zealand at Lord's. Their cricket lost its perception, stunningly displayed in the West Indies, of five-day disciplines. Some of the batting gave the old, familiar impression that a rapid 30 or 40 would suffice. Some of the bowling, in generally helpful conditions, was ineptly wayward.

With this said, do not expect today's meeting of the selectors to inflict major surgery on the team for next week's final Test, at Edgbaston. To do so would be both a gross over-reaction and an abandonment of their oft-stated policy of continuity.

It is possible, indeed, that Gooch, Stewart and Dexter will dismiss the Lord's performance as a temporary lapse and rubber-stamp the same names again. In that event, we might all be scurrying around, come next Thursday, to discover when England last put out the same Eleven in three consecutive Tests.

Last summer, it would never have been possible, even if desirable, because the days leading up to each Test match resounded to the twanging of banjostrings and the fracturing of fingers. Injuries became a routine rather than a remote fear.

So far in this series, fitness has played only a peripheral part. Four established members of the side in the Caribbean, Larkins, Capel, Hussain and Fraser, were not fit to start the series and have not been considered since. This week, things are different as both Capel and Fraser are very much back in business.

Of the two, Fraser is the one more likely to regain a place. He has been playing with his rib injury protected

but by all accounts he has bowled as probably as ever. The selectors might argue that he has not yet done enough to be confident of getting through five days but, if his fitness is accepted, then he should play ahead of the inconsistent DeFreitas.

Fraser developed, during two Test matches in the West Indies, into an indispensable third seamer. England's bowling has been much the poorer without his relentless accuracy in support of Malcolm and Small, and pitch conditions at Edgbaston, where he made his debut last year, are likely to suit him.

Capel can only realistically expect to return if the selectors rethink their policy of playing six batsmen and four bowlers. He has been batting more confidently than at any stage of his career but is unlikely to win favour on that alone. His bowling is at present impaired by a back complaint and, if a vacancy was created at No. 6 for the traditional all-rounder, there is also Botham, who is playing well enough to demand consideration.

Fairbrother, however, is undoubtedly safe for another game, although until he indicates a mental aptitude for Test cricket he must continue to live from match to match, with all the attendant stress.

Stewart, the other batsman under threat at Lord's, obtained an extension with scores of 54 and 42. Now, England must require him to go on from that base and produce something substantial. Yesterday, however, Stewart was seeing a specialist after twisting his ankle in a NatWest Trophy game at Trowbridge. If he is unlucky enough to be ruled out, there is a ready-made replacement in Derbyshire's John Morris, about whom any preconceived ideas of flash and swagger should long ago have been revised. He is a talented and committed player and recognition is overdue.

I have deliberately left spin bowling until last. England tend to do the same thing, though for different reasons. Increasingly, the inclusion of a slow bowler is no

more than a grudging acceptance of the fact that he might do a containing job, which is surely as unproductive as it is unattractive.

So long as Hemmings is the automatic selection nothing will change. At 41 years of age one can hardly expect him to alter his essentially negative ways.

There is, depressingly, no available off break bowler to challenge him but there is a band of young and talented left-arm spinners. Tufnell, Afford and Davis all have their supporters but Medleycott, who showed fortitude during the West Indies tour, on which he was under-used, and who has recently taken 26 wickets in five games, deserves a chance.

My 12 would be: Gooch, Atherton, Stewart or Morris, Lamb, Smith, Fairbrother, Russell, Medleycott, Small, Fraser, Malcolm, DeFreitas.

More cricket and Test averages, page 38

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